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# Massive bid to find conversion bill compromise

By HAN SHAPIRO and LIAT COLLINS

Representatives of the American and Israeli Reform and Conservative movements last night said they are unsure whether they will agree to suspend their High Court petitions on conversion for three months, in the hope that by then a permanent solution to the issue could be found.

At a coalition meeting yesterday, unanimous agreement was reached for an initiative by MK Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) to freeze action on the conversion bill, which says that only the Chief Rabbinate may validate conversions in Israel, if the petitions also are

suspended. However, Rabbi Gil Nativ, president of the Israel Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative), said the leaders of the two movements would have to sit down, perhaps with their lawyers, and discuss all the various proposals, before they could say whether any offered a solution to the problem.

The effort to reach a compromise gained momentum as it became clear that Tsomet, Yisrael Ba'aliya, and the Third Way all would break coalition discipline and vote against the bill on its second and third readings.

The Knesset Law Committee is sched-

uled to meet today to discuss the bill, with the participation of Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg and the non-Orthodox representatives.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday confirmed reports that he had canceled his planned visit to the U.S.

"I will do everything possible to find a compromise that will be acceptable to all sides," he told reporters.

Following a meeting with coalition chairman Michael Eitan and MKs Ze'ev Begin and Alex Lubotzky, Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, said that he and his colleagues were

impressed by the sincerity of those with whom they had met, but they are still unsure whether there was enough of a basis to go to the families whom they represented and say that there would be a solution.

"We can't just think of ourselves in this issue. We are representing families in which there is real human suffering," he said.

The hopes that a solution was on the way appeared to ebb following a meeting between the non-Orthodox rabbis and former Ashkenazi chief rabbi Avraham Shapira, who told them in no uncertain terms that the Chief Rabbinate

is the only body in Israel which could authorize conversion.

The meeting had been heralded as a historic breakthrough, however it ended after only 20 minutes with the Reform and Conservative rabbis convinced that there was no basis for discussion.

Shapiro, who is considered to be one of the main spiritual mentors of the National Religious Party, told them that the supremacy of the Chief Rabbinate not only "discriminated" against the Reform and Conservative, but against many Orthodox groups which would like to conduct their own conversions.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy

(NRP) told his faction that a public committee would be formed to find a compromise solution. This could take months or even a year, he said. Levy said that at present no compromise which had been raised was acceptable to the NRP.

The faction decided that apart from MK Shaul Yahalom, who chairs the Law Committee, the NRP MKs will not meet with the non-Orthodox representatives. Yahalom said he is prepared to discuss any solution, as long as it preserves the status quo and the status of the Chief Rabbinate.

See COMPROMISE, Page 2

## 15 Palestinians injured in Hebron riots

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, and JON INMANUEL

One border policeman and 15 Palestinians were wounded yesterday in the third consecutive day of rioting in Hebron. Clashes between Palestinians and IDF

Noam Aron. "The group consisted of Israeli ambassadors due to take up their post overseas who wanted to study the situation close up," Aron said, adding that the group also saw rioting Palestinians and other violations of the Hebron Accord. "The situation is explosive," he said.

A PA security official defended the Palestinian Police inaction by saying, "We will not kill people in the streets just because the Israeli government did not pay what it was supposed to pay."

PA Brig. Samir Siksek, deputy chairman of the joint security committee said, said at a seminar on Extremism and Democracy under the auspices of the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information: "There is a limit to our power. If you crush your citizens, they are no longer obliged to fulfill any laws."

In Gush Katif, Palestinians accompanied by members of the media broke into the Avraham farm opposite Netzer Hazani at noon. According to Gush Katif spokesman Shalom Kostiner, the Palestinians tore down the fence surrounding the farm that contains hundreds of dunams of agricultural plots tended by Gush Katif residents. Kostiner said the Palestinians damaged hothouses and uprooted vegetables. He added when IDF troops arrived they pushed the Palestinians off the farm.

The IDF Spokesman said that troops arrived almost immediately and fired rubber bullets and tear gas pellets to disperse the rioters.

The Spokesman said the Palestinians damaged crops and hothouses and during the clashes a Gush Katif resident fired shots into the air, but no one was injured. However, Palestinians claimed the resident shot a 25-year-old Palestinian man in the leg. He was hospitalized in Khan Yunis with moderate injuries, they said.



A border policeman grabs a Palestinian youth around the neck and arrests him for throwing rocks during clashes in Hebron yesterday. One border policeman and 15 Palestinian rioters were injured.

(Reuters)

## PM said looking to dump Meridor

By SARAH HONIG, AMOTZ ASA-EL, and DAVID HARRIS

The latent discord between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor took center stage yesterday, with speculation rising that Netanyahu is seeking to trigger Meridor's resignation.

Late last night, Meridor cancelled a trip to the United States for talks with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan as he, Netanyahu and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel were locked in debate over proposed currency exchange reforms which would potentially include, in addition to a foreign exchange reform, budgetary correction, and an interest rate cut.

The speculation over Meridor's future was heightened by Netanyahu's very emphatic refusal to comment about a possible cabinet reshuffle.

"I have absolutely no intention of getting into this," Netanyahu told reporters at the Knesset.

When asked whether he gives Meridor's performance high marks, he stated that he "will absolutely not hand out marks to anyone."

It is rumored that Netanyahu would like to see Meridor out of his government, and possibly replaced by Ariel Sharon. Sharon's National Infrastructure portfolio, according to this scenario, could then be handed over to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, whose portfolio would be restored to Ya'acov Ne'eman.

Moreover, if Meridor leaves, the total number of ministers would still stand at 17, thus making it possible for Netanyahu to co-opt one more minister to take over the science portfolio vacated by Ze'ev Begin. The law currently limits the number of ministers to 18. MK Sylvan Shalom is the chief contender for the science portfolio. Meridor always has been con-

sidered Netanyahu's least favorite minister. He was appointed only after pressure by Begin, when the government formation process was at its height. Meridor has since become a constant dissenting voice, most notably during the Bar-On Affair.

Despite the reported bad blood between the two, the prevailing opinion around Netanyahu is that he cannot fire Meridor. This would incur the wrath of such ministers as Limor Livnat and get Netanyahu into too much political hot water. He can make life in the government more difficult for Meridor, but Likud insiders do not think that Meridor can easily be goaded into quitting.

Meanwhile, at the fifth annual Caesarea economic conference, Netanyahu said there will be virtually no foreign currency restrictions by this time next year. The conference is attended by the country's economic elite, under the auspices of the Israel Democracy Institute.

Netanyahu stopped short of casting the deciding vote in the ongoing dispute between the Treasury and Bank of Israel, though he promised to do so imminently.

"In about a year, we will go from a situation where everything is forbidden unless said otherwise, to a position where everything is permitted except for a certain relatively small number of specifics," he said.

Before Netanyahu's speech, both Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky urged him to hold an all-encompassing cabinet debate on the economy before announcing any changes.

In a letter to Netanyahu, Sharansky urged, "in the most emphatic way, that no such steps be implemented until a dialogue is held with the participation of the relevant ministers, the Bank of Israel governor, and industry representatives."

See MERIDOR, Page 2

## Barak plans to send team to London to study Blair's style

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak plans to send a team of experts to Britain to learn the secret of Prime Minister Tony Blair's success.

Barak explained that he hopes "to find out what it was that Blair did to rehabilitate the British Labor Party and to bring it back to power. I would like to make use of his experience and to employ his methods here."

Barak said that he has not ruled out the possibility of renaming his party, as Blair did with his party. Barak said he is seriously considering changing the name to "the New Labor Party."

"This may have a psychological significance, though I am aware that a name isn't everything and that the really impor-

tant thing is the substance of the message. But even names and appearances have their importance," he said.

Both positive and negative reactions flowed in from Labor MKs. Nissim Zivili, who resigned on Sunday as party secretary-general, said he thinks that "the notion of a new name for the party is altogether superfluous. It is the same party and it smells the same no matter what you call it."

"What is important is that the party be rehabilitated and that it get closer to the grass roots, instead of doing what was done when the Histadrut was called the 'New Histadrut.' That did not generate an outpouring of enthusiasm for the Histadrut."

But Yossi Beilin said that "a new name might not be a bad idea. It would embody the fact that we are dealing with an old that we are seeking to renew and revitalize itself and makes itself relevant once more."

## Soldier killed, three others wounded in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

Fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday, following the explosion in the security zone on Sunday night which damaged a Merkava tank, killing Staff-Sgt. Ya'acov Algamis and wounding three other soldiers.

Algamis, 20, of Jerusalem, of the Givati Brigade, was buried at the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery yesterday evening.

He died while being evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, after a two-hour rescue operation to extricate the casualties from inside the tank.

Two of the wounded were released after treatment at the hospital, but the third was detained. He was reported to be suffering from light injuries.

The incident occurred in the security zone's western sector. Initial inquiries by Northern Command revealed that the tank ran over two mines which damaged its treads, although there was no penetration of its armor.

The mines also may have been connected to a large explosive device which also detonated, adding to the shock of the blast.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility.

The shock wave also caused the casualties among the soldiers aboard the tank and prevented them from getting out because

US may target Hizbullah drug trade, Page 3

both the turret and the rear door were stuck.

The rescue operations took two hours, during which a doctor and medic managed to get an infusion to Algamis and speak to the other soldiers. It wasn't until another tank deliberately struck the cannon of the damaged tank and moved it, however, that rescuers were able to reach them.

OC Lebanon Brig.-Gen. Eli Amitai said it was the first time in his experience that both access points to a tank were jammed in this fashion.

He stressed that the rescue operation had been mounted quickly, but there had been great difficulties in reaching Algamis,

who had apparently suffered internal injuries.

"When it became clear that there were casualties, the rescue force got to the scene very quickly, but operation took a long time because the two access points were jammed. It took about two hours until we managed to extricate the casualties," said Amitai. "There were two mines, which is called a sandwich, and possibly a very powerful explosive shock device as well. The matter is still being investigated."

One of the aspects of the investigation is likely to concentrate on ways of fitting tanks with additional escape hatches or other means of getting out, in the event that the main access points are jammed.

The incident further heightened tension in south Lebanon, following the recent escalation in Hizbullah attacks.

A Lebanese civilian was lightly wounded yesterday in a roadside bomb blast in the Jezzine enclave north of the security zone.

There were also reports of long-range mortar fire at an IDF outpost in the zone's eastern sector. There were no casualties.

Bikur Cholim Hospital, Jerusalem

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## NEWS

in brief

### UN cancels Israel mission

The UN yesterday said it was cancelling a planned mission to Israel to discuss construction in eastern Jerusalem because of what it called unacceptable conditions imposed by Israel. "The restrictions imposed on the scope of the mission by the government of Israel were not acceptable to the UN," spokesman Fred Eckhard said. UN sources said Israel wanted no reference to the resolution demanding an immediate halt to Har Homa in the talks with Israeli officials, and any discussions the UN envoy would have with officials outside the Israeli government, such as Palestinians, could not be included in the report. *Reuter*

### Wife: suspected land dealer didn't kill himself

The wife of a suspected Palestinian land dealer yesterday denied he committed suicide and said he was beaten in Palestinian custody. Hakam Kamhawi, 57, died Sunday in a hospital in Ramallah.

A Palestinian security official has said Kamhawi apparently killed himself. However, Kamhawi's wife, Ansaf, said her husband had no reason to take his own life. "He would never have committed suicide," she said. "I saw his body. It showed signs of torture." *AP*

### Islamic groups win Al-Quds University poll

Hamas and Islamic Jihad lists easily defeated the PLO-affiliated Fatah in elections for the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) University student council. The Islamic lists jointly won about 61 percent of the vote at the Palestinian university's nine campuses, compared to 34% for Fatah and 5% for the Democratic and Popular fronts. About 2,300 students study at the university. *Iam*

## Indyk meets with Levy in bid to get talks moving

By JAY BUSHINSKY

US concern that Egyptian mediation failed to reactivate the peace talks with the Palestinians track brought Ambassador Martin Indyk to the Foreign Ministry yesterday, signalling another American bid to break the deadlock.

Foreign Minister David Levy had little if any time to prepare for Indyk's unexpected arrival. Nor did he or his guest make any public statement when they parted.

The US had pinned its hopes on Egyptian presidential adviser Osama el-Baz' mission as a potential prelude to the resumption of negotiations. But this prospect appears unlikely in view of the Palestinians' assessment of his mission as a total failure.

Indyk's visit came less than 24 hours after Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's comment, reportedly in the presence of MK Shimon Peres, that the Egyptians are not succeeding in their effort.

Other Palestinian sources said the Egyptians, including President Hosni Mubarak, have been exerting "heavy pressure" on Arafat to stamp out corruption in the PA, warning that he will face grave consequences if this is not done. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu did not appear worried about the gloomy outlook which has become pervasive among the Palestinians. Addressing an elite economic forum in Caesarea, he said it will be possible to go on with the peace process only if there is a total cessation of terrorism.

He warned that terrorist attacks

will not be tolerated by his government. "That is what has changed," he said.

Netanyahu contended that under the previous government, "there was an inflation of expectations" among Palestinians, to the extent that they contemplated their early return to Jaffa, Acre, and other pre-1948 Arab population centers.

He said they anticipated Israel's return to the 1949 armistice lines, division of Jerusalem into two capitals, and partial if not total implementation of the "right to return."

Proceeding with his parallel contacts with regional leaders, the European Union's peace envoy, Miguel Moratinos, had a one-on-one session with Levy that lasted half an hour. Levy briefed him on the current status of the peace process. Moratinos was scheduled to see Arafat afterward, then leave for Syria.

A Foreign Ministry source said Moratinos has been dealing with the Palestinian and Syrian tracks simultaneously. The update by Levy was timed to coincide with the start of a major EU conference in Amsterdam today. Authoritative Israeli sources anticipated a relatively mild resolution, largely due to Moratinos' input.

He is due to confer with President Hafez Assad in Damascus tomorrow. He will be one of the first foreign emissaries to meet the Syrian leader since Romania's Foreign Minister Adrian Severin told Levy that Romania is willing to host Camp David style peace talks between Israel and Syria.

Syria has not reacted publicly to the proposal.

# PM: Arafat ordered Morag riots

By LIAT COLLINS

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat gave the green light for the recent disturbances in Morag, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu charged yesterday.

"There was a clear set of instructions a few days ago in Gaza for the violence that took place. I can't tell you about Hebron, but I can tell you that the Palestinian Police have refrained from acting against the violence on the Palestinian side," Netanyahu said as he left the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"I think that what is required right now is the shunning of violence and a return to the negotiating table. We are engaged in the process with Egyptian assistance,

and of course US assistance, to try to resume the negotiations for peace and security between us and the Palestinians. The Palestinian side should put its efforts there, not in violence," he said.

On the threat of war with Syria, he said: "We don't see any new indications or signs of impending war. This doesn't mean that we don't watch. We hope that Syria will enter the course of peace - this is our desire - and we hope that this will be facilitated by the US."

"As for our policy in Lebanon, it is not to occupy an inch of that country's soil. Unfortunately, we are unable to reach an agreement with Hizbullah to stop attacking our northern border, and therefore we are there as long as no other

arrangement is possible."

According to an official briefing, Netanyahu told the committee: "The PA is under pressure and in trouble."

He said that the Palestinians had expected pressure to be placed on Israel from all quarters, but this has not happened. He said that for the past three weeks there have been high-level mediation.

"The mediation is businesslike, positive, and not intended to put pressure on Israel. The is a practical search for ways to rekindle the process."

He noted that instead of the pressure on Israel that the Palestinians expected, the US Congress is threatening to cut aid to the PA. "The murders of the land dealers have also made a bad

impression in the US," he said.

The PA has two choices, he said, violence or dialogue. "I see the Palestinians are at the turning point," Netanyahu said.

He said the Palestinians "are cautious about directly fanning the flames of terror, because they know the response from both Israel and the international community will be harsh."

Netanyahu said he had not presented or drawn up any maps on the permanent arrangements. "The whole subject is at the height of discussions in the security cabinet, and even at the end of them I'm not sure I will draw up a map. I also don't believe I have to say what the scope of the second further redeployment will be," he said.

He said the first further rede-

ployment has not yet been implemented because the Palestinians are not abiding by all their commitments under the agreement. Later, MK Ehud Barak in his first meeting with the Labor faction as party head, said that Netanyahu's "amateurish and misleading policies" are leading to war with Syria, armed infiltration with the Palestinians, and isolation in the world.

He said if Syria does not think it can gain anything by negotiations, it will start the countdown to armed conflict. He said had no doubt Israel would be able to win, but it would cause heavy casualties, "and then we'll bury our dead and go back to the negotiating table. To discuss what? The same things we could discuss today."

## Morag residents plan new neighborhood

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH and ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Charging the IDF has not lived up to its promise to dismantle protest tents set up by Palestinians, Morag residents last night laid a cornerstone for a new neighborhood next to the Palestinian tents.

"We were told the IDF would dismantle the tents on Sunday," said Shivi Elon, a resident of Morag. "There are at least 10 tents on our land."

Elon said Morag residents are not interested in provoking violence, but are frustrated that the Palestinians remain on their land and nothing is being done. "Armed Palestinian Police mingle with the protesters, guiding them and telling them what to do," he said.

Morag has been the scene of violence and tension over the past weeks, with rioting last Thursday. The crux of the matter is a fence surrounding the Morag hothouses, which the Palestinians claim was erected on their land.

The IDF denies the claim, but in protest the Palestinians have torn down the fence on several occasions and set up tents in protest.

The IDF Spokesman said last night the matter is being investigated.

Gush Katif spokesman Shlomo Kostiner said approximately 100 Gush Katif residents joined members of Morag at the site demanding the Palestinians leave the settlement.

Meanwhile, Palestinian and Israeli security officials met over the weekend in an effort to resolve the Morag situation. Palestinians say the disputed fence forced them to make a two-kilometer detour to get to the Sufa crossing and their jobs.

According to a senior source, an agreement was reached where the Palestinians living in the area would be allowed to pass freely through Jewish-controlled land and the Palestinians would remove their protest tents.

But the Palestinians did not stand by their agreement and the tents were not removed, the source said. They even damaged a section of the fence, but the IDF quickly repaired it, he said.

The source accused the Palestinians of busing in demonstrators in order to keep the conflict going.

"They want to create pressure points, to take a local problem and make it a big deal," the source said.

## Hassan: US must be more aggressive

By NELLE KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan yesterday called on the US to adopt a more aggressive role in the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, saying the current standoff is "dangerous and threatening" and could lead to the collapse of all our endeavors and achievements thus far.

"I don't think that time is on our side. I don't think time is on the side of peace," Hassan told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "And I do feel that the concept of American facilitation should evolve into a concept of American engagement with the parties, to bridge that gap between [Israeli] security anxieties on the one side and legitimate [Palestinian] political aspirations on the other."

Hassan is in Washington this week to participate in the regular trilateral economic talks with the US and Israel. He might also meet with President Bill Clinton. His comments came the same day

that a leading policy forum, the Council on Foreign Relations, released a report calling for greater American involvement in the peace talks, leading to a declaration of principles for a final-status agreement.

According to the CFR report, the new DOP should culminate in an accord for a demilitarized Palestinian state possessing territorial contiguity; security arrangements taking into account Israel's needs; the uprooting of a minimum of Israeli settlers; and agreed upon Palestinian "functional" rights in Jerusalem.

The study was produced over the past year by a task force consisting of leading think-tank figures and former administration officials. It aims to discard what the organizers call the failed incremental foundations of the Oslo process.

At its core, the report calls on the US to reexamine its policy of intervening only at crisis points, and to reveal how it wants a final agreement to look, while not imposing the solution itself.



Capital demonstration

A border policeman keeps watch yesterday over several dozen Palestinians demonstrating opposite the US Consulate in Jerusalem over last week's vote by Congress recognizing the undivided city as Israel's capital. *(Reuter)*

## Poll: Palestinians want new gov't

By JON IMMANUEL

A majority of Palestinians would support a move to bring down the Palestinian Authority government over corruption charges, a poll indicated yesterday.

The Nablus-based Palestinian Center for Research and Studies on June 5-7 asked 1,317 interviewees whether they would support a motion of no-confidence by the PA legislative council in light of the PA auditor's report (which said \$323 million of an \$866m. budget was wasted).

The response was 52 percent yes and 32% no, with the remainder undecided.

In Gaza, which is the seat of the PA executive, the response was 59% yes, 32% no, and the rest undecided.

The lack of confidence in the cabinet does not necessarily reflect lack of confidence in Chairman Yasser Arafat, but in a separate question the chairmanship received a 68% good and very good vote, compared with 79% in a PCRS poll two months ago. The security services received an equal reduction in support.

This lower esteem was marked by particular incidents. For example, the way the PA handled a teachers' strike by arresting the leaders and demanding they return to work earned the PA a 27% good or very good evaluation. More than four-fifths of those asked expressed an opinion, which is interesting because very little information about the strike was available in the Palestinian media, indicating that censorship

is not an effective way to suppress news or influence public opinion.

A majority of 75% demanded that the PA permit TV broadcasts of legislative council debates, which ended when private broadcaster Daoud Kuttub was arrested. Only 46% had a good opinion of the council's performance, and 42% said they appreciated it more after seeing the broadcasts.

Support for the peace process has increased from a low of 60% in April to 68%.

The number of those who said they support no particular political faction increased from 29% to 34%, almost equalling Fatah, which stayed at 41%. Support for Hamas dropped from 10% to 8%.

The poll had a 3% margin of error.

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### NATHAN RICHMAN

May his loved ones be comforted with all the mourners of Zion. Surely, his memory will be for a blessing.

### PNAI - Parents of North American Israelis

mourns the loss of its former president

### EDWARD RING

and extends sincere condolences to his family

### MERIDOR

Continued from Page 1

Throughout the day delegates at the conference were to be seen in heated discussions, before proclaiming their support for either the Netanyahu-Frenkel or Meridor camps. Following its emergency discussion, the coordinating bureau of economic organizations (headed by

Manufacturers' Association president Dan Propper) issued a statement showing clear support for Meridor.

The bureau called for a program that will lead to economic growth, including foreign currency liberalization.

The central bank has repeatedly called for the abolition of foreign exchange controls, leading eventually to a fully convertible shekel. While the Treasury also

sees this as a long-term objective, it has so far been unwilling to set a deadline for such a move.

Ten months ago the central bank handed its recommendations for liberalization to the Treasury. But there has been no evidence of the two sides reaching a compromise over these plans.

Netanyahu stressed that both Frenkel and Meridor agreed there was a need to come to an early settlement of the dispute.

### COMPROMISE

Continued from Page 1

At the Yisrael Ba'aliya meeting on the issue, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said his party would support any suggestion which avoided the need for the legislation.

Eitan also met with Labor faction leaders and invited them to join the effort to find a solution. He said the issue affected the

whole Jewish People and is not just a coalition matter.

Labor faction chairman Ra'anah Cohen is scheduled to meet with the non-Orthodox representatives today.

The caucus of MKs from religious parties met with five rabbinical court presidents, who warned them against taking steps toward the Conservative and Reform, saying the next stage would be that the non-Orthodox would demand that marriages they officiated at here

would be recognized.

The director of the Chief Rabbinate, Gedalya Schreiber, and his legal advisor, Menahem Yanovsky, boycotted a meeting between the non-Orthodox rabbis and State Attorney Elyakim Rubinstein and his senior staff.

The boycott came after the Chief Rabbinical Council yesterday passed a resolution, its first official statement on the issue, calling on the government and the Knesset to pass the conversion bill.

### ARRIVALS

Additional arrivals for Bar Ilan University's Global Board of Trustees Meetings and Jewish Identity Leadership Mission, U.S.A.: Mr. Harry and Mrs. Alime Cederbaum; Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Julie Gochalk; Mrs. Fela Cederbaum, GERMANY; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cederbaum; Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Fischbaum; Mrs. Rivka Gercel.

**DRIVE SAFELY!**

הכזמן לעמל



riots

It has not yet been... because the... is under the... MK Ehud Barak... with the Labor... party head, said... "ambivalent... policies" are... with Syria, armed... Palestinians, and... world. said if Syria does not... in anything by negoti... start the country... conflict. He said... would cause heavy... and then we'll bury... to back to the negoti... To discuss what? The... we could discuss today.



Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky (r) yesterday greets Rabbi Jerome Epstein (l), executive vice president of the Conservative Movement's United Synagogue of America and Rabbi Reuven Hammer, head of its Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, here to lobby against the conversion bill. (Photo 90)

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

## Frantic search for conversion compromise

"Cease-fire," "an agreed upon solution," "an agreement that will last a long time," "national consensus." These expressions, generally used in the context of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, were heard yesterday relating to negotiations over the conversion bill.

Coalition chairman Michael Eitan has even become a kind of Dennis Ross, shuttling between the sides in search of an opening. Now meeting with a delegation of Conservative and Reform rabbis, then meeting with Labor Party representatives, now with the National Religious Party, then with Yisrael Ba Acha.

Eitan's job is, before June 30, to come up with a compromise between the Orthodox and non-Orthodox camps that would obviate the need for a law on conversion, or for the High Court to rule on the Conservative Movement's petition to recognize its converts.

Eitan is trying to broker a formula by which, in the words of Reuven Hammer, head of the (Conservative) Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, "Our converts can be registered as Jews, but which at the same time gives the Orthodox the feeling that these people were not exactly registered as Jews." No small order, that.

Although the conversion issue has been lurking in the background for months, even years, it burst upon the scene now because of the June 30 deadline, when the state is scheduled to present its argument to the High Court on why some 12 adopted babies, converted by the Conservative movement at Kibbutz Hanaton, should not be registered as Jews.



Michael Eitan (Jacob Harari)

The whole issue is an extension of the "Who is a Jew" issue of the 1980s. But if the question in the 1980s was whether Reform and Conservative converts abroad would be recognized in Israel - they are - the question today is if Reform and Conservative Jews converted here should be recognized - they are not.

The conversion bill, which passed its first reading earlier this year, stipulates that only conversions performed in Israel under Orthodox auspices will be recognized by the state. The proposed bill would anchor in law the status quo. It changes nothing, and only gives a legal base to a situation that already exists. It was pushed by the religious parties because of two court challenges.

The first, in 1995, was brought by Eliyahu Goldstein, a Brazilian who underwent a Reform conver-

sion after marrying an Israeli, and asked the Interior Ministry to register her as a Jew.

The court, in a complex decision, said it was asked to rule whether the state's reasons for not registering her were wrong, not whether Reform conversions are valid. And, indeed, it ruled that the state's reasoning was invalid, giving de facto recognition to Reform conversions. But it stopped short of explicitly recognizing non-Orthodox conversions, saying this should be decided by the Knesset.

A Knesset committee was established, and there were proposals for legislation both to validate and invalidate Reform conversions. They moved nowhere.

Because the Knesset did not act, the petition to the High Court on the conversion of the babies was meant to force the issue. It has. The religious parties, realizing that the court could very well recognize these adoptions, drew up the conversion bill, which was also spelled out in the Netanyahu government's guidelines. The second clause of the guidelines dealing with state and religion reads: "The Law of Conversion shall be changed so that conversions to Judaism in Israel will be recognized only if approved by the Chief Rabbinate."

In the meantime, the state has asked for a number of postponements of the court case, so that the Knesset to either pass the bill, or for a compromise to be reached - the state needs some kind of policy to take before the bench. The court made it clear in its last hearing on the matter in May that June 30 is the final deadline.

## IDF moving administrative detainees from Megiddo Prison

By ARIEN O'SULLIVAN

The IDF is scaling down Megiddo Prison, its last detention center holding Palestinian prisoners, and has already transferred difficult cases to Prisons Service installations.

Provost Marshall Brig-Gen. Niram Goldbroom said that over 120 administrative detainees were transferred last week. In return, Megiddo Prison took in an equal number of Palestinian security prisoners, who are considered more easily integrated into the prison.

Goldbroom, speaking to military reporters on a rare tour of the army

prison, said this agreement was sought by the IDF because administrative detainees are considered a "pressure group" and the IDF has a policy of not mixing them with regular prisoners. The IDF has also spent over NIS 1 million to renovate electricity and plumbing around the Mandate-era structure.

Rioting Palestinian prisoners burned down seven tents there last March, but prison warden Lt-Col. Shmuel Elbaz said such things have been relatively quiet since. The 592 Palestinian prisoners kept there today have washers and dryers, televisions, radios, and newspapers. They also are allowed

periodic family visits. "The conditions are not in exchange for quiet, but they get them because they deserve it," Goldbroom said.

Sitting behind rolls of concertina barbed-wire, groups of Palestinian prisoners in their twenties paced up and down or were engaged in animated discussions, seemingly oblivious of the reporters. Some two-thirds of the prisoners identify with Hamas and there is constant pressure on the others to join its ranks.

Maj. Ofer, the prison intelligence officer, displayed a collection of home-made knives, razors,

torches, and other weapons confiscated from prisoners. They also made fake rifles, he said, to disguise themselves as soldiers in an escape attempt.

Ofer said the prisoners are known to give lessons in various topics, such as weapons preparation and organization, but that IDF policy is not to halt it.

"They have lessons, but you can't stop it. You can move in on one group and they just start up in another tent," Ofer said. "Sometimes we identify the leaders and remove them or transfer them to other prisons, so they don't accumulate too much power."

# Non-Jewish spouses forced to leave country while marriages checked

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Dozens of mixed marriages have not been recognized by the Interior Ministry and non-Jewish spouses have been forced to leave the country for an unspecified period, because of a change in ministry policy, civil rights advocates said yesterday.

In several cases where spouses are not registered as Israeli citizens, they are living without elementary social benefits, such as health coverage, they said. These include women in advanced stages of pregnancy, who have no medical care for lack of funds to pay for private doctors.

Senior ministry officials say in response that, due to the large

number of "marriages of convenience," they have been forced to change the policy whereby non-Jewish spouses are registered as immigrants under the Law of Return, with accompanying benefits.

The High Court of Justice yesterday issued a show-cause order to the ministry, instructing it to explain within 45 days why it had not registered three such marriages in the Population Registry. Justice Eliyahu Mazza also issued an interim injunction preventing the ministry from banishing abroad the three non-Jewish spouses, while it investigates whether or not their marriages were genuine.

The court was responding to a petition submitted by the

Association for Civil Rights in Israel on behalf of three couples who were married abroad. All applied to have their marriages registered here and to get Israeli citizenship.

Arguing on behalf of the petitioners, ACRI lawyer Anat Scolnicov said that the non-Jewish spouses are entitled to Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return. While the ministry has the right to check into marriages of convenience, she said, until now such persons had been granted temporary residence permits while the matter was being checked.

Under the new ministry policy, the non-Jewish spouse apparently has to leave the country as a condition for its looking into the mat-

ter. Two other similar petitions, involving new immigrants who married non-Jewish women abroad, are also awaiting High Court hearings.

Meretz Party lawyer Marina Hefetz yesterday requested that the court give priority to a petition on behalf of a non-Jewish woman in her eighth month of pregnancy whose husband earns a minimum wage and who is not registered as his spouse. She is not entitled to any benefits and has no health insurance.

There are numerous other cases of such hardship, spokesmen for Meretz and ACRI said yesterday, and further petitions are being prepared.

## Mothers of soldiers in Lebanon repeat call for IDF pullout

By DAVID RUDGE

Mothers of sons serving in the security zone in Lebanon yesterday called on the government to "seriously discuss" ways of solving the Lebanon problem and pulling the IDF out.

"The death of another soldier in south Lebanon on Sunday night is further sad proof of the need to do something quickly," said Miri Sela, one of the founders of a group pressing for the withdrawal of the IDF from what she called the "Lebanese morass."

She said the group, founded two months ago by four mothers, now has hundreds of activists throughout the country, including many fathers and young people "both those before and after army service."

"We have already gathered thousands of signatures of people supporting our campaign and we plan

to hold a meeting of activists soon to plan our next steps," said Sela, a resident of Kibbutz Mahanayim in the Upper Galilee.

"We also intend to set up a lobby in the Knesset and mobilize the support among left and right wingers who don't agree with the policies over south Lebanon and the present situation there. We intend to shatter the lie that nothing can be done," she said.

Masha Sheindorf, of Haifa, whose son has already completed two tours of duty in south Lebanon, said their hearts went out to the family of the soldier who was killed, along with their condolences.

"The problem is that those who don't have sons in Lebanon don't know what it's like. Every time I hear the planes going over, even at night, or I hear that there have been exchanges, I immediately switch on the radio to try and find out

what's going on," said Sheindorf. "I joined the campaign not just for the sake of our own son, but for the others serving there or who will serve in Lebanon in the future, and their families."

"We support our son while he's there and we realize it is not an easy problem to solve, but solutions can and should be found to end the status quo that has existed for over 15 years and has cost so much," she added.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, in an interview with Israel Radio yesterday, maintained, however, that there are no easy answers.

"Every mother is concerned for her son, but there are other mothers' sons we have to protect and they live in Kiryat Shmona, Ma'alot, Rosh Hanikra and Avivim," said Eitan.

"What would those mothers say if the terrorists returned because

we were no longer in Lebanon? The forces they [terrorists] are trying to use against us are hitting the IDF and the SLA instead of the [Galilee] communities."

"But that's the task of the army - to protect the residents and ensure that the children can go to kindergarten safely," said Eitan.

President Ezer Weizman said he could not support the mothers' group, because the conflict in Lebanon is "not simple."

"There's a general staff, there's a Defense Ministry, and there's a government, and they will decide," he said, while visiting with Staff-Sgt. Shai Samiya, who was wounded in Sunday's incident in Lebanon and is in Haifa's Rambam Hospital. "It's not easy to say, but we've been through tougher times, like at the Suez Canal and in the Jordan Valley."

Lim contributed to this report.

## US may hit Hizbullah drug trade

By STEVE RODAN

The US is considering an offensive against Hizbullah to destroy its huge drug and counterfeiting network, that exports heroin, cocaine, and forged dollars there and into other Western states, officials say.

They say drug money plays a major role in the financing of Hizbullah's military campaign against Israel and terrorist operations abroad.

"You can trace the drugs that are pouring into America from Hizbullah, Lebanon, and Syria," a senior official said.

"There is no doubt of Hizbullah involvement in drug production," Dep.-Cmdr. Shmuel Narkis, head of special operations in the Internal Security Ministry, told the Knesset War on Drugs Committee yesterday. "Everybody familiar with Lebanon knows this."

The proposed US campaign would involve American pressure on Iran, Lebanon, and Syria - all of which cooperate with Hizbullah's drug and counterfeiting network.

"It is important to recruit the West and the US in this war [against Hizbullah]," Col. Reuven Erlich, deputy government coordinator for Lebanon, told the War on Drugs Committee yesterday. "Hizbullah has enough money from this [drug] production to flourish the organization. There is apparently a connection between drugs and terror. This assumption must be tested in a precise way."

The assertion is shared by US security officials, sources say, who dispute the 1996 State Department report on international drug trafficking. That report praised the governments of Lebanon and Syria for battling drug production in the Bekaa Valley, while acknowledging the difficulty of shutting down that region's labo-

ratories, which "are located in areas generally controlled by [elements] of Hizbullah and would require a large and concentrated effort to root them out."

Israeli officials say the country is being flooded with Hizbullah-produced drugs, although the country is not the main target of the Lebanese group. These drugs make their way through Israel to Egypt and North Africa.

"Israel is actually only a small part of the comprehensive Hizbullah policy of exporting drugs," Erlich said. "The [Hizbullah] intention is primarily to flood the West and the US. But for us, this is a flood in light of the great demand for drugs within Israeli society."

Western intelligence sources say the drug route for Hizbullah and its Lebanese and Syrian allies begins in South America. Lebanon imports from Colombia, Peru, Brazil and other countries poppies and chemicals needed to produce cocaine. The Lebanese are assisted by emigrants in these countries.

In addition, these Lebanese dealers, including the son of President Elias Hrawi, import from the Far East as well as from such countries as Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and Syria the morphine base to pro-

duce heroin.

The drugs are then manufactured in laboratories in the Bekaa Valley and exported by air or sea or through Syria, which sources say serves as a transit station for both incoming and outgoing drugs, as well as providing protection for the drug traffic.

Israeli sources estimate the profits from this trade at billions of dollars a year. They say the Syrians alone rake in \$1b. a year in what has become a large element in supporting its economy and enriching those loyal to President Hafez Assad.

In addition to drugs, the Syrians, Lebanese, and Hizbullah cooperate in counterfeiting Western currencies. The quality of the forgeries is considered high due to the US printing equipment given to Iran during the Shah's reign in the 1970s and later transferred to the Bekaa Valley.

The intelligence sources say Iran is also involved in counterfeiting large quantities of dollars, marks, and French and Swiss francs. The US Secret Service, responsible for US currency, is said to be alarmed by this development and has established a permanent office in Cyprus to monitor the manufacture and shipment of forged dollars.

## Proposal would have only one chief rabbi per city

By HAIM SHAPIRO


Everyone knows that chief rabbis come in pairs, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, but now there is a proposal before the Chief Rabbinical Council to change all that, and have only one chief rabbi, at least in towns and cities.

At present, every town and city has two chief rabbis, unless the community is very small and has a population which is almost entirely either Ashkenazi or Sephardi.

The Yemenite Jews, who regard themselves as neither, are largely ignored in this arrangement. The proposal to have only one

chief rabbi in each town was put forward yesterday by Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen, who said that in many cases the respective duties of each rabbi are not clear, thus leading to a paralysis of the local rabbinate. Cohen was perhaps referring to the occasions when the two chief rabbis of a town or city cannot get along with one another.

Those supporting the present situation argued that the double roles are needed because of the special needs of the local populations. The council appointed a committee to study the situation. There was no suggestion that there should also be only one chief rabbi for all of Israel.



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## NEWS

in brief

### Two arrested in Acre demonstrations

Two people were arrested during a violent confrontation yesterday between police and Acre residents who blocked the road leading to the city's industrial zone. Police warned the demonstrators to disperse, but when they did not, police broke up the protest with water cannons. The city has been demanding that Acre be granted Development Area A status, which has been granted to Karmiel and Nahariya. The status confers tax benefits on investors.

Demonstrators said that on Friday, 10 busloads of people would travel to Jerusalem to protest in front of the Prime Minister's Office during the weekly cabinet meeting. Acre Mayor Eli de Castro is to meet tomorrow with Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman. *Itim*

### More arrests in Har Adar shooting

Eighteen Palestinians have been arrested in connection with the Friday night shooting of Ofri Feldman, 23, near Har Adar. Since the incident, the IDF has arrested 12 more suspects from the villages of Beit Tzurif and Katana, in addition to the six from Bidu who were arrested late Friday.

Security sources said yesterday that it appeared the incident was not a drive-by shooting, but that the terrorists shot from the roadside and fled in a waiting car. *Itim*

### Hammer hospitalized for abdominal surgery

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer entered Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, yesterday for abdominal surgery. He has been suffering from an abdominal infection and his physician decided that an operation is necessary. *Itim*

### Diplomat's life saved

The life of a 60-year-old Egyptian diplomat was saved yesterday when he was resuscitated by a private ambulance team after losing consciousness at Tel Aviv University. The diplomat, who was clinically dead, underwent electric shocks and received special medications. In 20 minutes, his heartbeat returned and his blood pressure was normal, but he remained unconscious. He was brought to Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv for more treatment. In only a minority of cases are clinically dead people successfully resuscitated. *Judy Siegel*

### Surgery saves woman's sight

A 60-year-old woman with a cyst in the base of her skull that grew so fast that she was blinded by it, underwent emergency surgery at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. Scans showed the cyst had caused the destruction of bones in the skull and had pressed on her optic nerves. *Judy Siegel*

### Gasoline prices drop

Gasoline prices went down today. Lead-free (95 octane) dropped 1.8 percent to NIS 3.23 a liter, from NIS 3.29, and 96 octane went down 2.1% to NIS 3.22, from NIS 3.29. The price of heating oil dropped 7.9%. The decreases were caused by a lowering of the price of oil in the Mediterranean basin and by changes in the dollar-shekel exchange rate. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

# Panel: MK immunity should be withdrawn by public body

By LIAT COLLINS

Authority for rescinding parliamentary immunity should be taken from the Knesset House Committee and put in the hands of an external public body, the public committee on parliamentary immunity recommended yesterday. The committee, headed by former justice minister Moshe Nissim, presented its findings to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon.

The five-member public committee would be composed primarily of former MKs, but not active politicians.

Nissim said MKs should accept

the recommendations of the committee, because until today the House Committee has not refused to rescind an MK's parliamentary immunity for fear of being accused of playing politics. Nissim said a public body would feel free to decide.

"For the first time there is a chance that a decision will be taken not to rescind immunity," said Uriel Lynn, another member of the panel and a former chairman of the Knesset Law Committee.

In another field, the committee recommended restricting MKs' immunity on charges of slander

and libel to incidents which take place in the Knesset, in either the plenum or a committee meeting. Even press releases which are unrelated to things said in the plenum or a committee would be considered as if they were written outside.

Nissim explained the suggested change by saying that, in many cases, a private individual might feel slandered by an MK but has no recourse because the parliamentarian operates under blanket immunity.

One area in which immunity should be extended, said Nissim, is MKs' protection against a

search of their papers. This category should be broadened to include computers and other electronic information systems, which did not exist when the law was conceived.

Another suggested change is requiring the police to obtain the permission of the attorney-general before opening an investigation of an MK.

Nissim said that even if the recommendations are implemented, MKs will enjoy more parliamentary immunity than their counterparts in almost any other country.

Committee member Haim Zadok, another former justice

minister, said that, since the whole issue of parliamentary immunity conflicts with the principle of equality under the law, MKs should remember it is not an individual privilege, but one given to the Knesset to help it in its work.

In order to implement the recommendations, the Knesset would have to pass an amendment to the law on parliamentary privilege, and it is not clear whether this has enough support. Tichon, who appointed the panel, said its report would be discussed by the Knesset House Committee as soon as possible.

## Eisenbergs battle over estate

The heirs to the country's biggest fortune yesterday accused each other of break-ins and illegal stock transfers, as the court battle for the \$1.2 billion empire of tycoon Shaul Eisenberg heated up.

The fight pits Eisenberg's widow, Leah, and five daughters against his only son, Erwin. Mrs. Eisenberg is disputing a 1986 will that leaves 80 percent of the business empire to Erwin. The original of the will was never found.

In a new affidavit filed with the courts, Erwin Eisenberg accused his mother of breaking into safes and locked drawers in their family home.

"She broke into them independently by ordering a specialist to open them," the son's lawyer, Tuvia Erlich, said. "According to Erwin, those safes had at least tens of thousands of dollars in different currencies, if not more."

Mrs. Eisenberg's lawyer, Ya'acov Weinroth, said there never was a break-in. "The mother had a key to the safe that included her personal belongings," he said. (AP)



### A special kind of Bar Mitzva

Avraham Malicho uses sign language to deliver the blessings over the Torah at his bar mitzva yesterday, coached by Rabbi Zvi Markuse. Twelve deaf boys celebrated their bar mitzva at Jerusalem's Moshet Avraham (Conservative) Synagogue. (Brian Hendler)

## High Court refuses petition to delay Deri fraud trial

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Shas MK Aryeh Deri's fraud trial will continue in Jerusalem District Court, after the High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition for its postponement.

Following the publication of the attorney-general's report on the Bar-On Affair, Deri petitioned the court, claiming that the judges could not help but be influenced by the publication of the report, which called for his indictment for his role in the affair.

The judges are human beings, and even with the best will in the world, it is not possible that they would not be subconsciously affected by what is said outside the courtroom, Deri argued.

But the State Attorney's Office argued that district court judges are experienced and professional and



Aryeh Deri (Ariel Jerozolimski)

would judge the case solely on the basis of the evidence. It said that it is in the public interest that the trial be concluded as early as possible.

Judges are often expected to avoid being influenced by external events and have the ability to shut them out. Justices Aharon Barak, Eliezer Goldberg, and Tova Strassberg-Cohen said, in turning down the request.

This is not the first time Deri has asked to have the trial suspended. Last month, he wrote to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein with a similar request, but was turned down.

Deri, who was at the hearing, refused to comment on the ruling. But his lawyer said: "My feeling is that when the two most influential figures in the legal system - the attorney-general and the state attorney - have spoken out so clearly against Deri, there is bound to be a subconscious influence even on the most professional and fair judges."

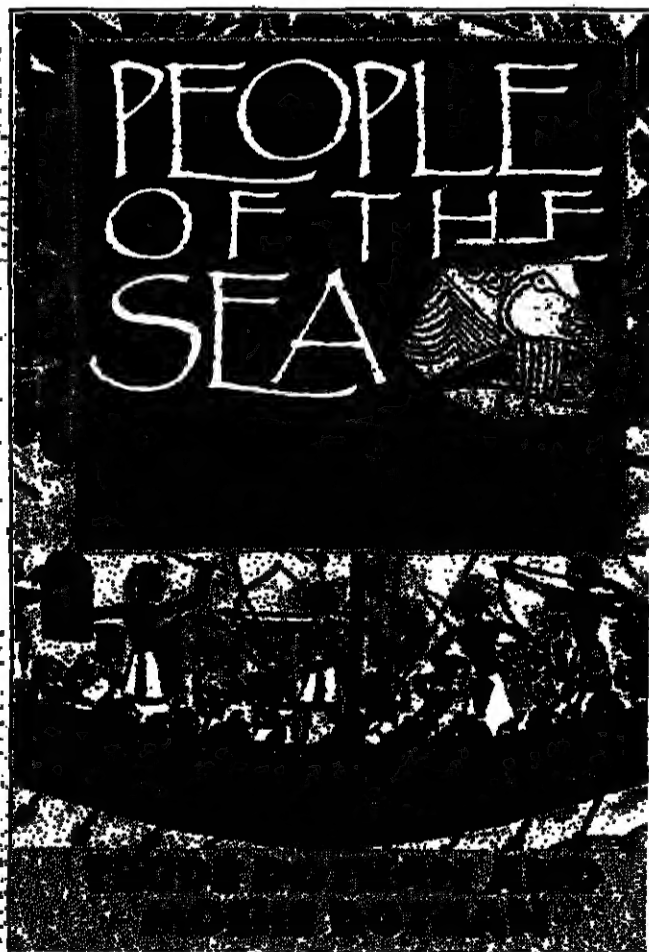
## Yad Sarah to open in NY

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Federal Employment and Guidance Service in New York has formed a partnership with Yad Sarah to establish a Yad Sarah organization in the US.

The Israelis will teach the New York organization how to set up medical equipment lending centers and provide many of the other services offered by Yad Sarah.

A delegation of FECS officials who recently visited Yad Sarah were impressed by the range of volunteer-based services provided to enable the sick, elderly and disabled to be cared for at home. Yad Sarah services 250,000 people a year on a budget of only \$7 million.



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## Playing by the rules

Judging by the unrest in the Gaza Strip and Hebron over the past few days, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is once again flirting with the use of violence as a negotiating tactic. Arafat denies complicity in the violence in which dozens of Palestinians have been wounded by Israeli rubber bullets, but the Palestinian Police, which is charged with preventing just such clashes, is nowhere to be seen.

It is a bit mystifying why Palestinian youth would wish to play the role of cannon fodder in Arafat's game. It is far from clear that Palestinians as a whole see the Har Homa project as the do-or-die issue that Arafat has made out of it. After all, the project does not violate the Oslo Accords, which say nothing that would prohibit building in Jerusalem.

Unfortunately, no one seems to be interested in what the Oslo Accords or the Hebron agreement actually say. The Hebron Accord obligates both sides to "prevent any provocation or friction that may affect the normal life of the city." The agreement also requires the Palestinians to establish checkpoints "to prevent entry of armed persons and demonstrators or other people threatening security" into the fifth of the city that remains under Israeli control.

The Palestinians can hardly complain that they do not have the wherewithal to fulfill the agreement. According to the agreement, they are allowed to have a police force of 400 – the actual size of the force, according to Israel, is about 1,500.

It is perhaps understandable that the Palestinians would wish to ignore certain provisions of the agreement which are difficult to implement. Israel has also not implemented certain provisions, though these have remained on the negotiating table in order to resolve security concerns that were not dealt with in the agreement. What is harder to understand is why the strongest proponents of the peace process – be they in Israel, Europe, or the United States – are not the first to run to the Oslo Accords to adjudicate any dispute between Israel and the Palestinians.

Instead, what happens is that Palestinian violence becomes, in the phrase of American columnist George Will, "self-justifying." In other words, if the Palestinians are rioting, the automatic conclusion is that Israel must have done something grievously wrong. In fact, the main thing Israel has done wrong is to conduct a "stealth" peace policy. Everything Israel does to implement the Oslo Accords, or to soften long-standing positions, is done begrudgingly or by illusion – such as the recent indication that Israel's final status position would not include maintaining Israeli control over all existing settlements.

The public face of the current Israeli government seems almost entirely devoted to proving its bona fides to its right wing. This approach imposes tremendous diplomatic costs upon Israel, and makes life genuinely difficult for the Palestinians, who in any case never had much

confidence in Netanyahu's commitment to the peace process. But the Israeli government's ineptitude at public relations does not excuse the Palestinian, much less the American, lax attitude toward what Oslo does and does not say.

If the US and others had said, following the deadly riots surrounding the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel in September, that the Israeli move, however badly handled, was not a violation of Oslo, then the expectation might not have built up that any Israeli move in Jerusalem would be followed by Palestinian violence. The tragic precedent set by the September violence is that signed agreements are not a standard by which the parties' behavior is to be measured.

Absent the standard of fidelity to agreements, which can be applied equally to both parties, all that is left is subjective psychologizing – the Palestinians are "frustrated," "angry," or "humiliated," therefore the violation of their commitments is understood.

This is not to say that the Palestinian or Israeli states of mind are irrelevant. But if states of mind were grounds for pulling out of agreements, then the Netanyahu government would have pulled out the Oslo Accords long ago.

Most agreements cannot be implemented without substantial grating of the teeth by both sides, especially when the parties are so far apart on so many issues. Even if the Palestinian state of mind is no excuse for violating agreements, Israel can and should do a better job of playing not just to its own right wing, but also to Palestinian sensibilities. It is, for example, extremely unhealthy that for months until the face-to-face meeting of Israeli and Palestinian teams in Cairo, there has been essentially no communication between the top levels on both sides.

This is not just Israel's fault, of course; but it is in Israel's interest to maintain direct, even if unofficial, contact with Palestinians at all levels. It is not enough to rely on third parties who are trying to broker an agreement, such as the US or Egypt, or upon intelligence assessments.

Even Yitzhak Rabin, whose relations with Palestinians were much more developed than Netanyahu's, had a personal envoy to Arafat who would ensure communication outside of diplomatic channels. For a time, lawyer Yitzhak Molcho played such a role for Netanyahu, but he was brought inside the negotiating process, so he can no longer play the role of semi-confidential messenger. The careful tending to atmospherics and communication lines is critical to the process – they are the grease that allows the peace process to inch forward, even when it seems stuck.

But even if these aspects were handled with the greatest finesse, agreements are only as strong as the willingness of the referees surrounding the process to reliably blow the whistle when, and only when, there has been a violation of the rules. Otherwise, each party will set its own rules, and the game will fall apart.



## Do-it-yourself Torah

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

American Jewry is up in arms over the proposed conversion law. By codifying the status quo, which denies recognition to Conservative and Reform conversions performed in Israel, the law is said to delegitimize the Judaism practiced by the majority of US Jews.

That argument would carry more weight if those marching under the banner of religious pluralism had a religious position. They do not.

In place of theology, American Jews have an attitude: No one – not even God – can tell me what to do.

As the editors of last summer's Commentary symposium, "What Do American Jews Believe?", candidly acknowledged in their introduction: "Whatever else American Jews may believe in, it is doubtful the majority of them believe in Judaism."

David Novak, a Conservative rabbi, noted in the same symposium: "Too many in the liberal community (Reform and Conservative) seem to be determined to adjust the Torah to whatever is considered as current in the class to which most of the members belong. Hence it is becoming harder and harder to see why their approach should any longer be called 'Judaism.'"

This is most obviously true for unaffiliated and Reform Jews, who together constitute a significant majority of US Jews. To the extent that they have an articulated viewpoint, it is that by labeling themselves Reform or unaffiliated, they have magically rendered all Halacha no longer binding on them.

At least in the case of Reform, popular practice and official dogma are congruent.

From its inception, the movement substituted Kantian moral autonomy for the binding Divine command. All Halacha, even circumcision, was declared a matter of personal choice, and the only relevant Law that which a particular individual happened to find spiritually uplifting at that moment.

In the recent debate over the movement's position on homosexuality, one Reform rabbi responded to a colleague's cita-

tion of Leviticus 18: "It's pretty late in the day for Scripture to be invoked in [our] debates."

THE Conservative Movement, by contrast, has never formally abrogated all Halacha. Yet the distinction is lost on most of the movement's adherents. In the words of Howard Singer, a Conservative rabbi who fled the pulpit for the world of advertising, "If we talk

**In place of theology, American Jews have an attitude**

of God or Jewish law, [our congregants] act as if we breached a tacit understanding."

While Conservative theologians spin elaborate theories to explain their endless tacks between tradition and flexibility, their congregants do not share their confusion. They know exactly what they want. In Singer's words, it is "a way of asserting Jewish identity that entails no restrictive personal requirements, does not interfere with their social lives, and yet, on demand, can put them in touch with their past."

Less than a quarter of Conservative Jews, according to the movement's most recent self-study, keep a kosher home, slightly more than a third light Shabbat candles, and only 29 percent attend synagogue twice a month. Almost none use a mikva, though the movement has never declared that the laws of family purity no longer apply.

Having reduced Sinai to an "opening conversation" at best, Conservative Jews cannot offer a coherent account of how God transmitted his commands to His people.

They cannot explain why an all-powerful God is assumed to be incapable of formulating a Law appropriate for His people in all ages and circumstances; nor can they reconcile so-called "continu-

ing revelation" with the Torah's repeated insistence on its own immutability. Continuing revelation becomes nothing more than popular practice wagging the Divine will.

Thus an unlearned laity is polled concerning such issues as patrilineal descent and ordination of women, and popular practice is retroactively ratified in the guise of "rabbinic legislation."

When Conservative and Reform Jews do attend their temples and synagogues, they listen to the Torah reading, with its long lists of do's and don'ts, with a certain cognitive dissonance. On Yom Kippur, they find themselves asking forgiveness for violating commandments they never heard of, and whose transgression they do not acknowledge as sins.

Reform and Conservative Jews cannot defend their particular level of *mitzva* observance, or their beliefs in terms of the classic Jewish sources, of which the vast majority lack even the most rudimentary knowledge.

Yet without recourse to our common sources – Bible, Talmud, Codes – Judaism degenerates into pure antinomianism. What any Jew, no matter how unlearned, happens to think is conflated with Jewish thought.

Whether the individual's reason, his spiritual intuition, or his base desires is made the ultimate arbiter of religious truth, the result is the same: a form of self-worship. While such worship is common enough, it is antithetical both to the development of a religious community and to the awe and mystery of religion.

The great tragedy confronting Judaism today is not that some Jews may be hearing for the first time that whatever they do is not necessarily okay. It is that they have never been challenged to think hard about the meaning of their Judaism.

Had they been forced to do so, they would be far more likely to seek the meaning of their lives in their God and His Torah.

The writer is the author of numerous biographies of modern Jewish leaders and Israel correspondent for the Jewish Observer.

## He, she & God

DAVID J. FORMAN

Last Friday evening, my 16-year-old daughter led services at Kol Haneshama synagogue in Jerusalem. In a secular society that sees the Orthodox world as too extreme for its taste, Reform synagogues like Kol Haneshama fill a critical spiritual need.

What is unique about houses of worship like Kol Haneshama, and about the Reform movement in general, is that my daughter could stand in front of a congregation and lead it through prayers.

As a woman, she is an equal partner in helping to create the religious atmosphere that enables Jews to reach God. This is the Reform Movement's greatest contribution to the Jewish world.

I say Jewish world and not religious Jewish world because if one sees it, as I do, as a Divine imperative to institute egalitarianism, the consequence of such a theological world view can only be improved relationships between men and women and a better society.

And here I part ways with some of my liberal colleagues who see religious pluralism as the crowning achievement of a democratic society.

Pluralism as a concept must come second to equality. Why? Because pluralism connotes tolerance, which by definition is a grudging, negative term.

Religious freedom, another code phrase for us liberals, is no more helpful in setting the parameters of a truly democratic society. For under its banner all manner of behaviors would have to be tolerated, including discrimination against women.

OVER the centuries, male rabbis, schooled in the sociological realities of their times, interpreted Halacha in a way that served

**As a religious concept, pluralism must come second to equality**

their male egos. They totally disregarded the Divine thrust toward equality of the sexes that was clearly present at the Creation.

We liberal religionists must not become complicit partners in this disregard.

Conservative Jews would not allow my daughter to chant Torah in their synagogues. They also did not allow her to be the 10 person making up a quorum in a house of mourning, thus denying a woman mourner the opportunity to recite *Kaddish* over the death of her father.

For Conservative or any other Jews to justify such inequality by hiding behind the cloak of pluralism is totally unacceptable.

Equality is a God-given right. To request, therefore, that the Reform Movement, which nurtures this right, be "tolerated" in the name of religious freedom is to reduce the glorious creation of the universe and the Divine spark in each of us to a political parlor game.

Reform Judaism deserves its rightful place in the Jewish world precisely because in its name a 16-year-old girl can stand before God and the people of Israel like any adult male member of the Jewish people.

Orthodoxy's refusal to recognize this Divine thrust toward equality will eventually leave it relying on pure (read: impure) coalition partnerships to protect its religious turf.

Ultimately such machinations will not stand the test of time, for God never intended the human race to be divided into superior and inferior halves.

Kabbala expounds the theory that before releasing a soul for life on earth, God splits it in two; and when these two parts find one another in life, their encounter is true love, and their union fulfills the biblical saying: "And they shall be of one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

That unity – two Divinely-inspired, equal halves making up one whole – surely dates from the very beginning of time.

Any religious movement that refuses to embrace this expression of the Divine thereby removes itself from the protective cover of religious pluralism and religious freedom.

It is time for those in the non-Orthodox religious camp to stop begging for tolerance from Israel's Orthodox religious establishment.

For how can one stream of Judaism expect to be accepted by another that has, embedded in its ideological being, a theological mooring that is intolerant in nature?

The writer is a freelancer living in Jerusalem.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ISRAELI STANDARDS

Sir, – I refer to your editorial of May 28, "Overprotective standards," and wish to point out that US and European product standards are different not merely due to the use of inches or centimeters. They were developed by different organizations over a large number of years and often reflect differences of philosophy. For example, the US always placed a strong emphasis on flammability issues due to the widespread use of wooden buildings, particularly in the first half of this century; in Europe there has been greater concern with problems of electrocution, since the mains supply is 220-240V (rather than 110V in the US). Today there is unquestionably a move towards harmonized standards. In general, it is the US which is modifying its product

standards in line with European practice.

In the case of Israel, it is evident that our standards policy is neither clear nor consistent. Sometimes an American or a European standard is adopted, with or without modifications, sometimes an Israeli standard is created. As your editorial correctly states, it is high time that a small nation heavily involved in international trade adopt a flexible standards policy. This would mean accepting a range of suitable but not identical standards, such as those of the US or the European Union. This is common practice in many countries.

The related issue which your editorial does not raise is that in Israel imports (and manufacturers) are restricted to one testing body, the Israel Standards Institute. The

impact on costs, service and delivery time of such a monopoly is all too well known.

Virtually no advanced trading nation today permits such an anachronistic situation, which strangles trade, increases costs and causes international friction. They allow and recognize a plethora of duly accredited testing bodies to perform this function.

Israel has set up a national Laboratory Accreditation Authority, which certifies laboratories according to international criteria. Now is the time to allow these labs to offer testing services for imported and locally manufactured goods, rather than allow Israel's trade to languish in the Third-World type monopolistic grip of the Israel Standards Institute.

ALAN CLAYMAN

Or Yehuda.

### TICKING TIME BOMB

Sir, – Your news report of May 28, regarding the proposed Knesset bill to limit missionary activity in Israel, gave the false impression that this issue is only of concern to a few southern US Christian fundamentalists and a couple of senators.

Having recently returned from an extensive speaking tour in America, I am aware that the proposed legislation is being widely discussed in the extensive Christian media, which includes over 1,000 radio and TV stations. The issue is perking the interest of the secular media as well (as it is in Europe and elsewhere), along with many pro-Israel Christian groups and politicians. On top of that, several large Christian denominations have spoken out against the proposed bill, and a major tourism boycott is being planned if the legislation is enacted. In short, this proposed leg-

islation, which most Israelis seem either ignorant of or oblivious to, is an issue that could ultimately cause Israel much more harm around the world than the Orthodox-Reform conversion fight.

The Israeli public should be forewarned: The obscure anti-missionary legislation, which passed its first reading in March, would cause tremendous financial and political harm to this country. The valid argument made by pro-Israel groups like the Christian Embassy, Christian Friends of Israel and Bridges for Peace – that Israel has guarded the religious rights of all of its citizens in Jerusalem and should therefore keep control of the entire city – would be severely undermined if certain Israelis are jailed for handing out or possessing religious tracts not to the liking of the

majority. American Christians in particular, whose tax dollars have substantially aided Israel, would rightly conclude that their trusted ally had chucked a major tenet of any democratic system. This would cause a sharp erosion in American support for the beleaguered state.

Maybe a majority of Israelis are so concerned with missionary activity that they truly want new legislation outlawing it, no matter how undemocratic this might be. In light of the fact that very few Israelis have responded to Messianic missionary approaches, I don't think so. Whatever the case, all Israelis should know that the proposed legislation is a ticking time bomb with enormous potential consequences for the country.

DAVID DOLAN

Jerusalem.

## Aren't we all brothers?

ANDREW M. SACKS

Truth: The Talmud and Midrash teach that there are "70 faces to the Torah" (i.e. an unlimited number of interpretations). Each is "the words of the living God."

Myth: Praying at the Wall was a provocative act.

Truth: We chose a spot way off to the side and at the rear of the Western Wall plaza so as not to offend others.

**There are myths spread by the haredi world, and there are facts. It's time to separate them**

One might term the gathering of Jews outside the Moscow synagogue on Simhat Torah in years past "provocative," or the illegal immigration of Jews to Palestine during the British Mandate, or the refusal of American blacks to sit in the back of buses.

Yet all these acts were the fulfillment of the biblical injunction to "pursue justice."

Myth: Haredi violence is perpetrated by a few unruly youngsters.

Truth: The garbage hurled at us on Shavuot and the obscenities screamed came from students of the Porat Yosef yeshiva, one of Israel's most prestigious yeshivas. Even after the filing of a criminal complaint, no apology has been

forthcoming.

The attacking mob consisted of hundreds. No haredi leaders tried to restrain their followers.

Myth: The Torah belongs to the Orthodox.

Truth: The Torah, and all our Holy Books, are the rightful property of all Jews. For all of us stood together at Sinai.

Myth: Women are prohibited from reading from the Torah.

Truth: The Talmud explicitly states that women may, in theory, be called to the Torah (Megillah, 23A).

Myth: Women are prohibited from donning tefillin.

Truth: The Midrash and other sources tell us that Michal, daughter of King Saul, put on phylacteries. So did Rashi's daughter.

Myth: The Jewish people cannot live together in peace with such widely-diverging approaches.

Truth: Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai not only lived together, but married one another.

Myth: Only Orthodox rabbis may perform a valid conversion.

Truth: The codes rule that even a conversion performed by three laymen is valid.

It's time to separate fact from fiction. I call upon the haredi leadership to sit down with us in the spirit of brotherhood and find a common language in which to dialogue – so that, in the spirit of Aaron, we become pursuers of peace.

The writer directs the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, the organization of Conservative/Masorti rabbis in Israel.







## BUSINESS

in brief

### 89,000 foreign workers registered at NIL

The number of foreign workers registered with the National Insurance Institute (NIL) totalled 89,000 in the last quarter of 1996, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. This figure does not include domestic staff. There were an average of 80,000 foreign workers registered with the NIL for all of last year. Of those registered in the last quarter, some 47,000 were employed in construction and through employment agencies, with 19,000 working in agriculture. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Kibbutz movements to discuss merger

A proposal to unify the three kibbutz movements will be discussed at this weekend's annual meeting of the United Kibbutz Movement (UKM). The plan is to unite the UKM with the Kibbutz Artzi Movement and Religious Kibbutz Movement. The three bodies already work together on a variety of issues. *David Harris*

### Former Apple CEO plans Israel investments

John Sculley, a former CEO of Apple Computers, announced yesterday that he has joined the supervisory board of Catalyst Partners PV. Based in Holland, Catalyst is the parent company of Israel's HK Strategy & Finance, Ltd., an investment bank which provides strategic planning services for high-tech companies. Sculley said he is currently planning several investments in Israel: companies, including joint ventures between local businesses and Live Picture Inc., a California-based, digital image technology company he heads. Sculley is here for Internet Word, which begins today at the International Convention Center. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### Israel, Sun Microsystems in procurement deal

Ed Bander, president of network computing giant Sun Microsystems of California, yesterday signed a reciprocal procurement agreement with the government, represented by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky. The agreement requires Sun to purchase an unspecified amount of Israeli goods. Last year, Sun purchased \$25 million worth of software from Israel, mostly from security software company Check Point. In January, Sun Microsystems opened the Java Soft Development Center in Herzliya. The center will concentrate on developing Java software products for operating systems, security systems and personal computers. Bander is expected to deliver the keynote address at Internet Word. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### 344 lots at 41st Gordon art auction

Gordon will offer 344 lots at its 41st auction on June 22/23, to be held at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds. Among the top offers is a 1930s oil of a Seder by the late Moshe Castel (\$35,000-\$45,000) and a rare 1913 pastel of a boat on a Dutch river by Lesser Ury (\$20,000-\$30,000). A treacly late Rubin of a mother and child has an optimistic top estimate of \$70,000. Several small Ardons with healthy estimates are also featured. Part two of the auction features a number of drawings and prints by noted Israelis with modest estimates, some as low as \$200. *Meir Ronnen*

### Safdie to re-design Toronto airport

Israeli architect Moshe Safdie has been chosen along with international colleagues for the \$2.5 billion redesign of Toronto's Lester B. Pearson Airport. The initial work will begin July 1, with the ground-breaking ceremony scheduled for next year. The intention is to double the airport's capacity with the construction of a second terminal. *David Harris*

### Owen quits NatWest Bank

Britain's NatWest Bank said yesterday its investment banking boss Martin Owen had quit amid a major overhaul of the business, which was draining the group's profits. NatWest's chief executive Derek Wanless said he had not fallen out with Owen and the decision that a change of leadership was needed had been taken by them both after lengthy discussions. Owen's future has been under a cloud since late February, when NatWest Markets disclosed it had sustained multi-million pound losses over a two-year period in its derivatives division. *Reuters*

### CORRECTION

Harry Fox invented the first multimedia personal computer and not as published yesterday.

# Sharon willing to negotiate with JNF on land reform blueprint

By DAVID HARRIS

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday offered to negotiate with the Jewish National Fund (JNF) and other interested parties over the recommendations of the Ronen Committee on the reform of the country's land structure.

Sharon was speaking during a sitting of the Knesset Economics Committee, whose aim was to bring all sides back to the negotiating table following the JNF-led attack on the report - which aims to expand real-estate supply and ultimately generate a price decrease.

Insisting they had been largely ignored during the committee's investigations, the agricultural lobby, the JNF, and Jewish Agency all expressed hope that Sharon's promise of talks will be acted upon.

These organizations had expressed their concern that they were not consulted prior to last Friday's government approval of the Ronen recommendations.

However, Sharon informed them that the cabinet only gave approval to the general principles behind the report rather than its specific details. Furthermore, he added, when the key Israel Lands Administration (ILA) directorate discusses the proposals next week, it too will only vote on the principles. This will leave the path open for detailed discussion of each proposal in the report.

Among those demanding compromise in the final version of the plan are the representatives of the Arab population, the farming community, the JNF and Jewish Agency.

"There's a feeling here that Jews are splitting the land between themselves and not thinking of

others," said Azmi Bishara (Hadash). "There's no reference to the fact that this land once belonged to Arabs."

In response, Sharon said he does not want to deal with past issues but to look ahead, working closely with Arab leaders and justly considering each and every claim they may have.

"I don't distinguish between Arabs and Jews; they are all Israeli citizens," he said. The farmers' representatives, who had successfully appealed to the Supreme Court to prevent the ILA from approving the relevant sections of the report without their approval, said they would not have turned to the courts had Sharon initially said he was prepared for a full round of negotiations.

They are particularly concerned about their future relationship with the state, which through the ILA

and JNF owns some 91 percent of the land. Aryeh Gertler, head of the farmers' campaign against the Ronen report, said legislation must be introduced to enshrine farmers' rights.

Sharon told the farmers the last thing he wants to do is harm their rights. The JNF is convinced there is no way it can transfer land out of state control. "It is our job to preserve national lands," JNF chairman Moshe Rivlin said.

This is a view shared by the Jewish Agency, which favors a reduction in bureaucracy and is prepared to negotiate with the farmers to reach a compromise but is refusing to sell its landholdings.

The JNF also maintains the discussion should never have been held in the government, as the ILA is the only body which can make decisions on the issue of land

sales. The Ronen Committee recommendations call for: the dispersion of the population away from the central areas; the transfer of the freehold from the ILA or JNF to householders - initially this is likely to affect some 700,000 apartments; preventing foreigners (other than those entitled to settle here under the Law of Return) from buying land; easing planning procedure restrictions for private citizens, making it far easier to build on one's own property; and granting permission for agricultural estate holders in residential areas to register their land as individuals rather than as part of larger representative bodies and that they be permitted to divide their estates and sell residential plots. Many of the proposals will not require legislation, but some of the weightier issues will have to come before the Knesset.



Israeli display at Paris Air Show

Visitors to the 42nd Paris Air Show yesterday examine the cockpit of an Israeli-upgraded fighter plane, which is to be sold to the Romanian Air Force. (Reuters)

## BackWeb in talks to have its software included in PCs

By JUDY SIEGEL

BackWeb Technologies, an Israeli software firm that automatically "pushes" Internet sites of the user's choice on the screen, is negotiating with major international computer manufacturers to have its program included in each machine sold, BackWeb CEO Eli Barka said yesterday.

Barka added that when the deals are signed and the software is included in PCs, they will become much more user friendly for those interested in the Internet.

Users will be able to take the PC out of the box, plug them in and customize their own Internet "channels" - whose icons will appear on the screen while they work as soon as the sites are updated.

A very young company with a 34-year-old CEO, BackWeb already has 100 staffers (40 of them in Israel and the rest in the US) and has captured 22% of the business of 50 leading companies using push technology.

"We are way ahead of the rest of the pack," says Barka, who graduated in computer science and mathematics from the Hebrew University. He started his career as a software developer with Aurek and then moved to Daizix Technologies in Herzliya, where he developed computer-assisted design applications.

Eighteen months ago he was a key person in the development of BackWeb. The Jerusalem Post's Internet Edition was the first on-line newspaper in the world to be accessible via BackWeb.

As it is a privately owned company, Barka would not supply revenue or profit figures. BackWeb recently announced an agreement with Microsoft Corporation for expanding broadcast and delivery options for Microsoft's Internet Explorer 4.0, scheduled for release soon.

The firm has also just released BackWeb version 2.0 with several new enhancements that conserve the corporate network bandwidth. This version is especially useful for companies sending information to employees over their own intranet. While they work, staffers will be notified automatically of news and material from management without having to look for them.

## Soros increases Indigo stake

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Entities affiliated with US entrepreneur George Soros and P.C. Chatterjee invested \$8.9 million in a private placement in Indigo NV, the struggling manufacturer of electronic color printing products, an Indigo spokesman said yesterday.

Indigo intends to use the investment to "improve its financial situation," the spokesman said.

Soros and Chatterjee representatives could not be reached for comment.

Since the beginning of the year, Indigo has raised a total of

\$28.9m. in placements, said CFO Shlomo Nimrod, adding that the investments demonstrate people's confidence in the beleaguered company's ability to turn its fortunes around.

"We are proud of the continued support investors have in the company and its technology," he said in a statement.

Earlier in the year, the Dutch-based company with production facilities in Israel and an Israeli leadership, announced it had raised \$20m. from investors.

Among the investors were the Landa Family Trust, whose beneficiaries include Benny Landa,

Indigo's founder and chairman, and the Chatterjee Group, an affiliate of Soros Fund Management.

Indigo, which had difficulties marketing its new product line and maintaining strong customer relations, announced a restructuring program at the end of 1996.

Indigo's massive restructuring program - including the laying off of 57 percent of its workers and firing of senior staff - was designed to return the company to its former glory as one of Israel's most internationally lauded high-tech firms and to secure its position as a leader in the electronic printing market.

Early signs showed the plan was taking effect, as the company advanced toward the black in the first quarter of 1997. Indigo said net losses for the first quarter totaled \$17.8m., compared with \$21.6m. in the same period in 1996.

In January, two companies affiliated with Soros increased their holdings in El-Rov Israel to 14.4% as part of Soros's plan to increase its involvement in the local real-estate market.

Soros and the Chatterjee Group also announced a commitment to invest \$25m. in Geotek Communications.

## Rockwell Semiconductor Systems to expand local R&D centers

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Rockwell Semiconductor Systems, the world's leading modern manufacturer, expects to increase the number of employees at its Israel-based centers from 50 to 75 over the next year, company president Dwight Decker said.

The company already had a center in Karmiel, which it acquired from the US-based Comstream.

"We came here because of the people and talent and because we felt we could build a strong product development team," Decker said.

The increase in the number of employees will raise Rockwell's local investment from \$10 million to \$15m. per year, Decker

said. The decision to set up a local R&D center is part of the company's transition from an aerospace and defense company to a high-tech commercial electronics firm, he said.

The center in Herzliya will design software-based modems, which are more flexible and less expensive than the currently used hardware modems. The Karmiel center is engaged in developing satellite modems.

Rockwell Semiconductor Systems' revenues totalled \$1.5 billion last year, representing some 20% of Rockwell International's \$8b. in annual sales.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.875	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.050		
Yen (10 million yen)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (16.6.97)					
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS					
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Bank Notes	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.6705	3.7298			
German mark	3.3837	3.4383	3.32	3.49	3.4160
Pound sterling	1.9511	1.9826	1.91	2.02	1.9715
French franc	5.3341	5.4234	5.43	5.71	5.5863
Japanese yen (100)	0.5780	0.5874	0.56	0.60	0.5857
Dutch guilder	2.9689	3.0143	2.91	3.06	2.9953
Swiss franc	1.7842	1.7822	1.70	1.79	1.7832
Swedish krona	2.3435	2.3813	2.30	2.42	2.3659
Denmark krone	0.4358	0.4427	0.42	0.45	0.4404
Finland mark	0.4829	0.4704	0.46	0.48	0.4873
Canadian dollar	0.5125	0.5265	0.50	0.53	0.5180
Australian dollar	0.8511	0.8617	0.86	0.88	0.8687
Israeli sheqel (10)	2.4551	2.4847	2.41	2.53	2.4801
South African rand	2.5441	2.5855	2.50	2.63	2.5656
Belgian franc (10)	0.7518	0.7638	0.69	0.77	0.7589
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9454	0.9607	0.92	0.96	0.9525
Italian lire (1000)	2.7725	2.8173	2.72	2.88	2.8015
Spanish peseta (100)	1.3870	1.4011	1.35	1.42	1.3934
Egyptian pound	4.7725	4.8486	4.71	5.08	4.9873
Irish punt	0.9600	1.0000	0.96	1.05	1.0575
Portuguese escudo (200)	3.8079	3.8694	3.80	4.05	3.8466
Irish punt	5.1204	5.2030	5.03	5.26	5.1713
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3088	2.3469	2.28	2.38	2.3343

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

מכזמן השכל







## SPORTS

in brief

## Tiger Woods becomes youngest world No. 1

LONDON (Reuters) - Tiger Woods has become the youngest player to head the world golf rankings list, issued yesterday. The 21-year-old American gained a top 20 finish in the US Open at Bethesda, Maryland at the weekend to leapfrog over Australian Greg Norman, who had a disappointing tournament and missed the cut.

South African Ernie Els moves up from eighth to fourth place after his one-shot victory over Britain's Colin Montgomerie at the US Open.

## Williams, Campbell carry West Indies to victory

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters) - Openers Stuart Williams and Sherwin Campbell carried West Indies to an extraordinary six-wicket victory against Sri Lanka midway through the third day of the first Test on Sunday.

In a Test of fluctuating fortunes, the West Indies pair belied the belief that conditions did not favor the batsmen, combining in a stand of 160 - far and away the biggest partnership of the match.

Set 187 to win, West Indies looked set for a convincing 10-wicket victory, but in keeping with the bizarre proceedings of the previous two days the hosts then lost four wickets for just 23 runs.

It was left to Carl Hooper to hit the winning runs, a six over long-on off off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, ending an eventful first Test match between the countries in West Indies.

## Lancashire strangled by Zimbabwe leg-spinner

LONDON (Reuters) - Zimbabwe leg-spinner Paul Strang completed a match haul of 11 for 186 to bowl Kent to the top of the English county championship table yesterday.

Strang took four for 68 to add to his first innings seven for 118 as Kent snatched a 58-run victory over Lancashire in the penultimate over on the fourth and final day at Old Trafford.

Set a target of 306 off a minimum of 58 overs, Lancashire were all out for 247 after their last six wickets crashed for 44.

England middle order batsman John Crawley struck 91 off 119 balls, with 12 fours, but his dismissal marked the end of Lancashire's push for victory.

On 245 for nine, uncapped pair Jamie Haynes and Paul Ridgway tried to hold out at the finish but the former was bowled by paceman Martin McCague with the fifth ball of the game's penultimate over.

Worcestershire seamer Stuart Lampitt ended a subliminal innings by discarded England wicketkeeper Jack Russell to help inflict Gloucestershire's first championship defeat of the season, at Bristol.



WITH A FLOURISH - American Venus Williams seen in action at the women's grass court tournament in Eastbourne yesterday, is unseeded for Wimbledon which begins next week but she is certain to turn many heads with her aggressive style of play and her innovative hair style. (AP)

## Becker given a helping hand for Wimbledon

LONDON (Reuters) - Former champion Boris Becker earned a timely bonus for his past efforts at Wimbledon yesterday when he was nominated as eighth seed for this year's championships by the All England Club committee.

Becker is still struggling to regain his form following a wrist injury but, despite a world ranking of 18, the three-times champion has been promoted above a host of younger rivals including French Open winner Gustavo Kuerten and rising Australian Pat Rafter.

World No. 1 Pete Sampras was predictably confirmed as top seed in the men's singles but world No. 2 Michael Chang has to be content with fifth position on the seeding list. Goran Ivanisevic, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and defending champion Richard Krajicek have all been

placed above him. Six players among the world's top 20 are either injured or have withdrawn from the Wimbledon men's draw but Becker's position will not delay court experts Marcelo Rios or Carlos Moya who also both find themselves seeded below the 25-year-old German.

Despite a world ranking of 20th, Britain's Tim Henman has been seeded in 14th position, largely on the strength of his performances last year when he became the first home player since 1973 to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals. He is the first British man's seed for 15 years.

In the women's singles, the absence through injury of Steffi Graf gave the seeding committee an easier task. Martina Hingis, the world No. 1, is the top seed followed by Monica Seles and Jana Novotna.

The draw for both the men's and women's singles will be made today, six days before the championships start.

Seeding: Men's singles: 1. Pete Sampras (US), 2. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia), 3. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia), 4. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands), 5. Michael Chang (US), 6. Thomas Muster (Austria), 7. Mark Philippoussis (Australia), 8. Boris Becker (Germany), 9. Marcelo Rios (Chile), 10. Carlos Moya (Spain), 11. Gustavo Kuerten (Brazil), 12. Patrick Rafter (Australia), 13. Andre Medvedev (Ukraine), 14. Tim Henman (Britain), 15. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa), 16. Petr Korda (Czech Republic).

Women's singles: 1. Martina Hingis (Switzerland), 2. Monica Seles (US), 3. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic), 4. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic), 5. Lindsay Davenport (US), 6. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa), 7. Anke Huber (Germany), 8. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain), 9. Mary Pierce (France), 10. Conchita Martinez (Spain), 11. Mary-Joe Fernandez (US), 12. Irina Spilina (Romania), 13. Elizabeth Paez (US), 14. Brenda Schultz-McCarthy (Netherlands), 15. Ruxandra Dragomir (Romania), 16. Barbara Paulus (Austria).

## Maccabi allows Sherf to go to PAOK

By ORI LEWIS

Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball club yesterday decided to allow their coach, Zvi Sherf, to take a position with PAOK Salonika of the Greek first division.

Sherf, who also coaches the national team, is considered to be the top contemporary Israeli basketball coach and this will be his third appointment abroad. He was in charge of French club Limoges in 1995 and prior to that coached oversaw Greek club, Aris Salonika.

PAOK has offered the Israeli a lucrative two-year contract said to be worth \$1.1 million.

Maccabi chairman Shimon Mizrahi said yesterday that with

such a generous offer on the table, the Tel Aviv club could not possibly stand in Sherf's way and he wished him luck.

Sherf, speaking on Israel Radio from Spain, where the national side was playing in a warmup tournament for the European Championships, said he was grateful to Maccabi for agreeing to let him go.

Israel finished bottom of the four-team tournament and yesterday lost 81-76 to Latvia. They continue preparations for the championships at another tourney starting in Turkey today.

Sherf's deputy at Maccabi, Yoram Hama, is said to be the most likely candidate to take over from his mentor.

## Israel to experiment against US tonight

By ORI LEWIS

Israel's depleted basketball team will play a friendly match against the United States tonight, a friendly match that will be a test for the Israeli players.

For the Israeli side, the match is a test for the players, who will be playing against a team that is considered to be one of the best in the world. The match will be played at the Maccabi Tel Aviv Sports Center.

The US-Israeli match kicks off at 2:30 pm tomorrow.

## AC Milan confirm Capello is returning as coach

MILAN (Reuters) - AC Milan confirmed yesterday that Fabio Capello would be returning to the Italian club as coach from July 1 in place of Arrigo Sacchi.

"From July 1, 1997, the technical direction of the team will be entrusted to Mr Fabio Capello," it said in a statement.

The club expresses its warmest gratitude to friend Arrigo Sacchi for the constant commitment shown during the season.

Sacchi, former Italy national coach, took over at Milan late last year after Uruguayan Oscar Washington Battezzati had his resignation offer accepted.

There was no official word on his plans but he is widely expected to take a career break.

Milan finished the season in 11th place, their lowest since they were relegated to serie B in 1982, and will not be playing in European club competition next season.

Capello won four league titles and one European Cup with Milan after taking over from Sacchi in the 1991. He left the club at the end of the 1995-96 season for Real Madrid.

He added the Spanish league title on Sunday when Real won the championship. Capello announced after the match that he would be returning to Milan.

He told the daily *Gazzetta dello Sport* yesterday that Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi had approached him about the job in March. "Berlusconi called me and I could not say no," he said.

## Spartak killing highlights crime in Russian sport

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The weekend killing of a senior business executive at Russia's top soccer club, Spartak Moscow, has highlighted how far sport in the former Soviet Union has fallen victim to organized crime, officials said yesterday.

Vladimir Radionov, general secretary of the Russian Football Union (RFS), said Larisa Nechayeva, the second senior Russian sports official shot dead in the last two months, had received threats recently and looked nervous the last time he saw her.

"It looks like the commercial interests of different companies clashed in this case and relations between them took a dangerous turn," Radionov told Reuters.

"As often happens nowadays, they started settling scores." Police in the Vladimir region, east of Moscow, were still investigating the apparent contract shooting of Nechayeva, who was the director general in charge of finance and sponsorship at the league champions.

She was No. 2 to club president Oleg Romanets, the former head coach of the Russian national side.

One club source said she was a particularly close associate of Romanets, an authoritarian figure who retained close control over the club during his 1994-96 tenure with the national squad.

Nechayeva and another woman on the Spartak management team, named by police only as Rudzaks, were gunned down at a club villa on Sunday afternoon. Her driver was in intensive care.

The murders came less than two months after the unsolved assassination of Russian ice hockey federation president, Valentin Sych, who was sprayed with bullets as he drove to work.

Sych, 60, had spoken out against pressure from business groups who take advantage of post-Soviet Russia's legal vacuum to employ the sort of mafia-style tactics that have made contract killings commonplace across the country.

One senior Russian soccer official said on Monday he was alarmed by the general rise in the use of sports clubs to launder mafia money. Other allegations, never proved, that have circulated in the Russian sports world in recent years involve the abuse of special tax breaks and widespread match-rigging.

Some of Russia's biggest sports stars, now based abroad, say they fear to return home for fear of pressure from crime gangs.

Spartak spokesman Alexander Lvov conceded Nechayeva's murder was a contract hit. But he hotly denied any suggestion the club, four times Russian champions in the past five years and one of the richest in the country, had any links to the underworld.

"There is no connection to organized crime. This contract killing could have been prompted by any kind of reason - personal contacts, other private matters," he told Reuters Television on Sunday.

"It has nothing to do with allegations of the so-called criminal entourage around our club." He added he was not aware of any threats towards Nechayeva.

Other Spartak officials declined to comment yesterday.

Nechayeva, 45, a striking blonde said by NTV television to be a member of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's extreme nationalist LDPR party, was reported to have landed her job by contacting Romanets with an offer to turn the Spartak into a "superclub."

Unlike many of Russia's top clubs, such as Red Army side CSKA, police team Dynamo or the railways club Lokomotiv, Spartak have a tradition of relative independence from the state.

But they have won important sponsorship deals allowing them to dominate the Russian league - they returned to the top of the table on Saturday with a 1-0 win over Lokomotiv Nizhny Novgorod - and to pay star players such as winger Andrei Tikhonov enough to stop them joining the exodus of talent to the West.

## LOCAL SCENE

## Perlman elected to serve on influential ICC panel

By HEATHER CHAIT

In an unprecedented move, Stanley Perlman was elected unopposed as the Associate Members representative on the International Cricket Council's Finance and Marketing Committee.

The position includes controlling and advising the ICC on financial matters, alongside representatives from Australia, England and Pakistan.

While in London this week, Perlman was inundated with offers of assistance for local cricket from full member countries.

Meanwhile, the team representing Israel in the Maccabiah will be Raymond Ashton, Steven Baskin, Abraham Daniels, Jacky Dvorkin, Bezalel Kahimkar, Danny Malekar, Isaac Masil, Alan Moss (capt), Yefet Nagavik, Perlman, Shimon Raz, David Silver, Paul Smith, Avi Talker and Shimon Tzardelcar.

Bowls: The bowling population has been busy recently, both with the Shavut tournament and with the more altruistic ESRA event.

The Ra'anana team of Yitzhak Benodli, Sally Goldberg, Meir Judelkin and Tony Joffe inched past the Kiryat Ono side of Avi Naim, Assaf Gringard, Ruthie Gilor and Shelley Aviv, to win the Shavut tournament 15-13.

Another tight squeeze gave the Ramat Gan team of Arye Keren, Moshe Braun, Rivi Meirav and Shosh Assiyahu third place with their 17-16 win over Kfar Hamaccabiah's Cecil Bransky, Yair Bekier, Juliette Bimbak and Michael Stange. Kennar Investments sponsored the event.

The ESRA function, with proceeds of NIS10,000 going to ESRA's after-school enrichment centers, was won by Raymond Sher, Gordon Silberstein, Itz Shamos and Meir Judelkin.

Sponsoring this event was Anglo-Saxon Real Estate (Ra'anana). Athletics: High jumper Konstantin Mamevich is in excel-

lent condition for the national championships at Hadar Yosef on July 6-7.

Over the weekend he achieved his best result this year - 2.31 meters at the Maccabi championships. Mamevich, who holds the national record at 2.34m, then aimed for 2.35m but failed.

Besides the sports champions at the national competition, there will be other heroes present, some better known than others.

Adding a dash of officialdom will be President Ezer Weizman who will open the event. No less important will be Meital Lederman who was critically injured in the Dizengoff Center terrorist bombing and is confined to a wheelchair, as is Meni Guy who saved a television crew during the riots after the Western Wall's tunnel's opening. Both Lederman and Guy will award medals at the competition.

Tennis: The ATP Tour rankings for this week have Eyal Ran at 140, Oren Motevassel at 182, Eyal Erlich at 205, Raviv Weidenfeld at 236 and Nir Welgreen at 280.

The doubles rankings are another story with Ran leading on 186 but Lior Mor is second on 244, Noam Behr on 266, Harel Levy on 272 and Erlich on 279.

Golf: Ran Sandler won the monthly medal competition with his 69 net score with Leslie Ben Amir's inferior back nine giving him second place, also on 69. Morris Porter won the B division with 74 followed by Clive Jossett on 76. Yitzhak Dankner led the C division with 73, leaving Avraham Namdar in second place at 74. In the D division, Barbara Golan won with 74, followed by Nae Kamsky with 75.

After 10 rounds of the National Coca Cola Golf League, Kfar Shmaryahu is the clear favorite with 43. Herzliya A is second with 24 points and Herzliya B has 22.

Maccabiah minutes: Nearly five thousand of the Diaspora's leading sportspeople will be airlifted into Israel over just three days between

July 11-14 for the opening of the 15th Maccabiah on July 14 in Ramat Gan.

Accompanying the athletes will be 15,000 visitors from 50 countries. Netanya, with the most athletes, will be known as the "Olympic city" and among other hosting cities will be Metula (where ice hockey will debut in the Games), Jerusalem and Bat Yam.

Another first for the two-week event is Nava Israel, the clinical dietitian who will keep tabs on the meues and nutritional value of the victuals that cross the athletes' lips.

Temple bowling: Sarit Mizrahi won the 1997 national title, after beating her mother and winning the title two years ago. Mali, en route to the title, Mizrahi, a soldier, was part of the Israeli team which won the bronze medal at last year's European Youth Championships. The men's group was won by Avi Yakobovitch from Holon who beat last year's winner Yossi Strum in the final.

Eight players leave on Thursday for the European Championships in Nottingham, England where besides competing, local chairman Ronnie Ashkenazi will be proposed to become a member of the Presidium of the European Committee.

Thelwax: 140 of the country's best backwoodsists, chosen from two local championships, were invited to the capital on Jerusalem Day for the national championships.

Among the men's winners were Doss Cohen (54kg), Eyal Shemesh (58kg), Tomer Almog (64kg), Shashor Sorek (70kg), Aviad Bloch (76kg), Daniel Druker (83kg) and Ran Levitan (over 83kg).

In the women's category the outstanding athletes were Shirli Star (43kg), Nataly Ochov (51kg), Anna Fliner (55kg), Tamar Golan (60kg), Tamar Mechlav (65kg), Yael Igelstein (70kg) and Ellen Goldkranz (over 70kg).

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מזמין השירות



# CRITIC'S CHOICE

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

After last summer's grand operatic evening under the baton of Daniel Oren, the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra returns to Hayarkon Park. Everybody who's anybody on the Israeli light popular music scene will join the IPO tonight (9) in a special concert celebrating 100 years since the first Zionist Congress. Night Gidon, David Broza, Shoshana Damari, David Dor, Shlomo Gronich and many others will join the orchestra under the baton of Rafi Kadishzon in a concert emceed by Haim Topol. A hundred thousand enthusiastic music lovers are expected at the event. Admission is free.

## ENGLISH THEATER

Mel Edison (Don Slovov) is *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* and Linda Smilstone is his wife Edna, in the Tel Aviv Community Theater production of Neil Simon's comedy about a man whose world just about comes apart at the seams. Directed by Helen Eleasari. Tonight and tomorrow night at Yael Lebanim at 8:30. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Kate Brody's Hadassah Center Stage theater presents that delightful *Little Shop of Horrors* all about a boy, a girl and an omnivorous plant that grows and GROWS! Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman, music by Alan (Aladdin) Menken. Tonight and tomorrow night at Jerusalem's Mercat Hamagshimim at 8. (02-561-9165) *Helen Kaye*

## THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Edna Mazia's *A Family Tale*, about family skeletons, follows the fortunes of a German Jewish family from Heidelberg in the '30s to Tel Aviv in the '70s. Fine performances from Sandra Sadeh and Elisheva Michaeli. On the Cameri mainstage tonight at 8:30. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English).

## FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

\*\*\* JERRY MAGUIRE — Tom Cruise stars in this bittersweet comedy about a fast-talking athletic agent whose integrity gets him fired; as his uncouth employer makes it painfully clear, there's no room for old-fashioned ideals like Jerry's in the sneaker-and-



Tom Cruise stars in the bittersweet comedy 'Jerry Maguire.'

soda-sponsored world of professional American sports. So our hero is forced to go it almost alone, with no friends but a single client, a second-rate NFL wide-receiver (Cuba Gooding Jr.) and a shy, daydreamy accountant (Renée Zellweger), who quits her job to help Jerry. There's something winning about director Cameron Crowe's softly, goofy approach. Instead of imposing optimism on the characters from above, he lets their own hopefulness and idealism bubble up and carry the film. If anything, Crowe himself seems to recognize a few dark truths about human nature that the characters don't, and he uses their slightly pie-in-the-sky ideas and emotions as a source of gentle humor. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

\*\*\*\* A SELF-MADE HERO — Jacques Audiard's film begins with the small, funny story of a provincial French boy with a lively imagination, and evolves gradually into a sharply pointed allegory about memory, fantasy and the dubious legacy of the Vichy government. Not that the movie grows sadder and preachy as its historical implications open out. Hardly. With real comic aplomb, Mathieu Kassovitz plays a charming pathological liar, a young man who leaves home on the eve of the Liberation and creates for himself a fictional identity as a former hero of the Resistance. The movie manages an unusual blend of caustic humor and serious political commentary. (French dialogue, English and Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

## TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash  
6:31 News in Arabic  
6:45 Exercise Time  
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Television and the Presidency  
8:30 Art Workshop  
9:00 Reading  
9:45 For the very young  
10:15 French  
10:30 Mathematics  
10:40 Literature  
11:15 Sciences  
11:30 Science and Technology  
12:00 Geography  
12:30 Movie Music  
13:00 Plain Clothes  
13:50 Cartoons  
14:20 Kity Cat and Tommy  
14:55 Quentin Quack  
15:00 Zombik

CHANNEL 1

15:00 Motocross from Mars  
15:55 Body  
16:00 Its Alive  
16:05 News  
16:59 A New Evening  
17:34 Shake-up  
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:00 Apropo

18:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News flash

19:31 Muppets Tonight

20:00 News

20:00 Loto draw

20:00 Philharmonic in the Park - Live broadcast from Hayarkon Park of the Israeli Philharmonic conducted by Rafi Kadishzon. With David Broza, Nurit Galron, Shoshana Damari and more.

23:00 Dream On

23:30 News

00:00 Daily Verse

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs

6:30 Aladdin

7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

9:00 Ruby

10:00 Picket Fences

11:00 Bakersfield PD

11:30 Nurses

12:00 The Legend of Prince Valiant

13:00 Kate and Allie

13:30 Zombik

14:00 Degress Junior High

14:30 Junior News

15:00 The Bold and the Beautiful

17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef

17:30 Everything's Over

18:00 Thirtysomething

19:00 Hartzumi

19:20 The Price is Right - with Alk Avni

20:30 Ramat Aviv Gimel

21:15 Fact - with Ilana Dayan

22:00 G. X-Files

22:15 The X-Files

00:05 X-Files - cont.

00:15 Night Meeting with Kobi Medler

01:00 One of Us Own - movie about a policeman raped by a fellow officer

02:05 The American Cinema - documentary series

3:35 On the Edge of the Shell

JORDAN TV

15:00 Holy Koran

15:30 Soccer - Chile vs. Ecuador

17:00 Square One

18:00 The News

18:10 French programs

## MIDDLE EAST TV

11:30 Sweet Temptation (1996) (pt)

13:05 Seeing Stars

13:55 Wishing Tree (Georgian, 1976) - poetic portrait by Tengis Abuladze of life in a small Georgian village

15:30 Blessed Assurance (1995) - a Korean War veteran is determined to succeed, even at the price of betraying his fiancée and selling illegal bonds

17:00 New in the Cinema

17:10 The Playboys

17:30 The Playboys

17:50 The Playboys

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21:10 The Playboys

## PRIME TIME TV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19:30 News flash Muppets Tonight	News	Sunset Beach	No One Would Tell	The Bottle	A Healthy Body		
20:00 News	Ramat Aviv Gimel	Beverly Hills 90210	Suddenly Susan	Animaniacs Married with Children	Future Quest		
20:30 Loto draw Philharmonic in the Park	Fact - with Ilana Dayan		The Single Guy	Roseanne	Nature on Track		
21:00	Gov Night		Love Story with Yossi Segin	The Cosby Show	Eight On Eight with Yael Dan		
21:30				Different World	Marlin Gardner, The Magic of Mathematics		
22:00				Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter	Human Nature		
22:30							
23:00							

9:00 Big City Metro: Seoul (pt)  
9:30 Ernst Krenk - music  
10:30 Alfred Kraus presents the opera *Messiah*  
11:30 Mouserrat Caballe - the story of the famous soprano  
12:30 Beyond 2000  
12:50 A Healthy Body  
13:30 Future Quest: Planet Patrol (pt)  
14:00 Nature on Track (pt)  
14:30 Beyond 2000  
15:30 Galapagos, Beyond Darwin  
16:15 Human Nature  
17:00 Open University - Beta Barok Interactions in Science: Principles of Accounting  
19:05 Beyond 2000  
19:30 A Healthy Body  
20:00 Future Quest, part 11: Transport Control  
20:30 Nature on Track, Part 11  
21:00 Eight On Eight with Yael Dan: Architecture and Housing  
21:45 Martin Gardner, The Magic of Mathematics  
22:45 Human Nature  
23:00 Open University - OI, US Presidents

8:30 Oprah Winfrey  
9:30 The X-Files  
10:30 Santa Barbara  
11:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
12:00 Hindi shows  
13:30 Lost in Space  
14:30 Double Hower MD  
15:00 Charles in Charge  
15:30 Yan Can Cook  
16:00 Hindi programs  
16:30 Star News  
16:50 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em  
19:30 Space: Above and Beyond  
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
21:00 Santa Barbara  
22:00 Star News  
22:30 Baywatch  
23:00 Dynasty  
00:30 Soap  
1:30 Oprah Winfrey  
2:30 Barnaby Jones

8:30 Soccer: Black Label Cup  
11:30 Motor Racing  
12:30 Golf: This is PGA Tour  
13:30 Sports India  
14:30 Super League Rugby  
15:30 Waterports World  
16:30 Soccer: World Cup Hall of Fame  
17:00 Rugby: Test Match - New Zealand vs. Fiji  
18:30 Motorcycling: Asian Championships, Thailand  
19:30 Asian Soccer  
20:30 Auto Racing  
21:30 Sports Unleashed  
22:30 English Sunday League Cricket

8:00 Morning  
9:05 Claude Lejeune: Chansons and pieces for lute solo: Haydn; Symphony no 51 (L. Esposito Armonico); Mozart: Requiem (Les Arts Florissants); Schubert: Piano trio in B flat D988; Shostakovich: 6 Romances to texts by Japanese poets (Levinson/Goldberg SO/Jarvis)  
12:00 Light Classical - Spanish Fiesta  
13:00 Artist of the Week - conductor Ferenc Fricsay  
Kodaly: Psalmus Hungaricus for tenor, choir and orchestra; Smetana: Vltava from From My Life  
14:00 Folk music - Monteverdi: Dream  
15:00 From the Recording Studio - Jesus Echeverria de Miguel (clarinet); Inbal Alexandron (piano); Horowitz: Sonata for clarinet and piano; Pendergast: 3 Miniatures; Malcolm Arnold: Sonatina; Martini: Sonata for clarinet and piano; Bernstein: Sonata, J. de Miguel: Movement for clarinet solo  
16:00 My Concert, with Ezra Dagan  
18:00 New CDs - Monteverdi: Seven Madrigals from fifth book; Benda: Sonata in E minor for flute, cello and piano; Schubert: Songs; Rimsky-Korsakov: Piano trio in C minor  
20:05 From Our Concert Halls - live broadcast from Henry Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem, Israel  
Camerata Jerusalem - Instrumental and Vocal, cond. Avner Birn, with soloists and Currende Choir (Belgium); Bach: St. John Passion  
22:00 A Musical Journey

8:00 Speedworld Magazine  
11:30 Soccer: World Youth Championship, Malaysia  
12:00 Touring Car 1400 Eurocup  
14:00 Eurocup: World Youth Championship, Malaysia  
15:00 Soccer: World Youth Championship, Malaysia  
16:00 ATP Tour, Netherlands  
19:30 Cycling: Tour of Switzerland  
20:00 4x4 Off-road, Iceland  
21:00 Deltaline  
22:00 Major League Baseball highlights  
23:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno  
00:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien  
1:00 Later  
1:30 NBC Nightly News  
2:00 Tonight Show  
3:00 Intermix

8:00 Open University  
8:30 The Waves  
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### Protest not child's play

Children of Lapid, one of the "seven stars" communities being built along the Green Line, protest in front of the Prime Minister's Office yesterday, claiming that the school building being completed for them is not big enough.

(Fax: Dan Isenberg; Photos: Ariel Jerozolimski)

## Women to get free health scans

By JUDY SIEGEL

Next month, all four public health funds will start inviting women between the ages of 50 and 74 for a mammography. The screening program is being carried out on the instructions of the Health Ministry.

The National Health Insurance Law requires all the health funds to carry out free mammograms for the early detection of breast cancer among women in this higher-risk group. Although the law went into effect two-and-a-half years

ago, the health authorities are only implementing it now, as the insurers had claimed they weren't prepared for the mass screening.

Until now, over half a million women of all ages have undergone mammograms, but most did so after being referred by a physician or noting a suspicious lump. Now the health funds must send a personal letter to women 50-74.

The health funds estimate that 60 percent to 70 percent of women receiving an invitation will go for a breast scan.

The health funds, who want to

receive special allocations to implement the program, each say it will cost them between NIS 3 million and NIS 5 million a year. The Health Ministry says the service should be included in the basket of health services covered by the insurers.

Women under 50 who have a family history of breast cancer should ask their doctor for a referral, though there is a possibility that doctors will be asked to search their records for such patients, and send them letters as well.

# Inquiry: Censure commanders

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and Him

The report of the fourth official inquiry into the deaths of two aircrew in a night-time training accident five years ago may finally put an end to a five-year push by the bereaved families to see those responsible punished.

But the 146-page report, which was presented to the families of Gil Tzuriano and Assaf Rosenberg, could not unequivocally say what caused the helicopter cable to snap and send them falling to their deaths.

It did find that the flight technician, Master-Sgt. M, should face disciplinary charges or a court martial. It also said that the commander of the air force rescue unit at the time, Lt-Col. A, and the helicopter squadron commander, Col. S, be given an administrative reprimand.

Lt-Col. A acted in contravention of regulations by holding a rescue training exercise without the safeguards appropriate to the level of difficulty, the inquiry found. The exercise was the first of its kind and the trainees were inexperienced — but they did not receive proper briefing, said the report.

Similarly, it found that Col. S violated procedure by failing to run through the exercise first during the day.

The board of inquiry, appointed by Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, was headed by Dr. Eliyahu Vinograd, a civilian, and included Maj-Gen. (res.) Rafael Vardi and Brig-Gen. (res.) Nehemia Dagan. Since December, the inquiry interviewed over 70 witnesses.

After the accident, the pilot of

the CH-53 landed, but did not leave the craft, according to regulations. However, he also did not instruct his navigator to go to the aid of the victims. This was a "total mistake" in judgment on his part, the inquiry determined.

The inquiry said the two medics aboard the helicopter should also have been sent out to aid Tzuriano and Rosenberg, but no one ordered them to do so.

The families had accused former OC Air Force Maj-Gen. (res.) Herzl

Bodinger of whitewashing previous investigations into the incident. But the inquiry found that Bodinger acted in good faith and that all the actions he took, including calling off a military police inquiry, derived from an attempt to find out the exact cause of the accident.

Nonetheless, the Vinograd Commission also determined that the air force had shown "a certain degree of insensitivity" in its reluctance to disclose information about the accident to the bereaved families.

## Bereaved mother calls report a 'whitewash'

By BATSHEVA TSUR

"My feeling is that they wanted to finish off the whitewashing nicely," Haya Nussbaum, the mother of Assaf Rosenberg, said, apparently disappointed that former OC air force Herzl Bodinger had not been reprimanded.

She was speaking after the parents, accompanied by attorney Eliad Shraga, met with Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

"We had our blood sucked for five years," Nussbaum said, adding that Shahak admitted that, if a more thorough investigation had been conducted at the time of the accident, the long drawn-out process could

have been prevented.

Leah Tzuriano described the report's conclusions as "low-keyed and light-weight" in view of the gravity of the incident.

Shraga, however, after studying the report, said that it had left them "with mixed feelings... It was a grave report which accepted most of the parents' complaints with regard to the circumstances of the accident, the officers' behavior, and the attitude of the IDF and the air force toward the bereaved parents. They decided to take action against four of the people involved, but they didn't go all the way."

He said that the families plan to decide whether further action should be taken.

### BACKGROUND

## A precedent-setting inquiry

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The IDF last year agreed to allow an external commission of inquiry to investigate previous inquiries into the 1992 training accident, as well as the accident itself. The commission, which was the first external commission to investigate a military accident, was agreed upon by the IDF and the bereaved parents following the parents' petition to the High Court of Justice.

Airmen Gil Tzuriano and Assaf Rosenberg fell to their deaths when their air force rescue helicopter's cable snapped during a drill. After two military boards of inquiry reached conflicting conclusions about the accident's causes, the parents demanded the establishment of an external commission.

In an unprecedented move, the IDF agreed. However, it wanted the commission's mandate restricted to the causes of the accident, while the fam-

ilies also wanted the committee to look into possible wrongdoing during the inquiry process itself.

For instance, the families said, it is highly suspicious that then-OC Air Force Herzl Bodinger set up a second inquiry committee — whose findings completely contradicted those of the first — immediately after the High Court issued a show-cause order on the families' earlier petition against the IDF's refusal to prosecute various military personnel. The contradictory findings were the main reason no one was prosecuted.

Following court-ordered negotiations on the subject, the IDF agreed that the commission be authorized to examine any aspect of the accident or subsequent investigation that it deems necessary. In exchange, the parents agreed to withdraw a complaint they had filed with the police against Bodinger, and to accept the committee's conclusions as final.

## Sinead O'Connor cancels concert

By ELI WOHLGELERNTER

Rock singer Sinead O'Connor has canceled her concert that had been scheduled for Saturday night at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool, either because of death threats received here — as the singer and the concert's organizers maintain — or because of what Mayor Ehud Olmert said was poor ticket sales.

"Once I was made aware that a threat had been issued, I immediately [last Monday, June 9] canceled my appearance," the singer said in a statement. "I am the mother of two young children; I will not do anything that could jeopardize their future, my own safety and the safety of the musicians and crew that work with me."

The concert was planned as the climax to five days of political and cultural events sponsored by left-wing groups of Israeli and Palestinian women, under the title: "Sharing Jerusalem: Two Capitals for Two States."

It was unclear yesterday when O'Connor had actually canceled

the concert. Despite her statement that she canceled it on June 9, the statement was not faxed to Israel until Friday, and concert organizers said they were not informed of the decision until Sunday night.

"The Irish ambassador here tried to calm her down," said Daphne Golan, director of Bat Shalom, the Israeli women's group. "He talked to her agent in England and tried to tell him that everything was under control. We only received the press release yesterday. Her agent here said he talked to her since then [June 9] and it was only Sunday that she actually canceled it. This whole story is very strange."

The debate over why she canceled was fueled by Olmert yesterday morning in a radio interview, in which he called the festival a "provocation" and "anti-Israel propaganda."

Olmert maintained that it was poor ticket sales that forced the concert's cancellation.

"It appears the people of Israel are smarter and more responsible," he said. "They simply didn't buy tickets."

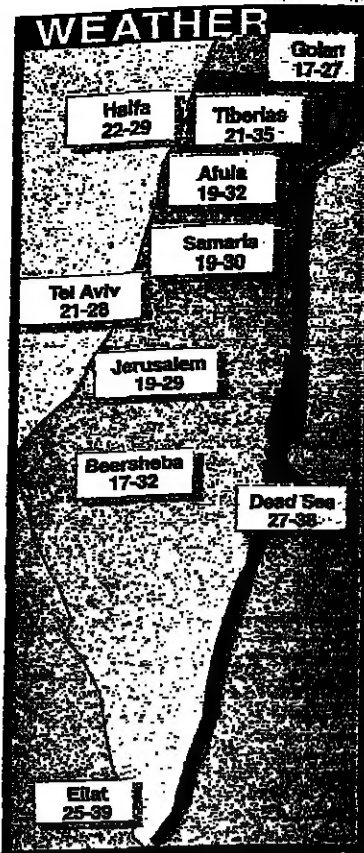
But one of the publicity people involved with the concert said that the concert was "pre-paid," meaning that the sponsoring groups had pledged to cover all costs no matter how many tickets were sold. Concert organizers, moreover, said that between 2,000 and 3,000 tickets had been sold, even though ads promoting the concert only began appearing on Friday.

"On Sunday we were swamped with calls," said Gina Benevento, associate producer of the week's events. "Almost all of the tickets [that were sold] were sold that day, so it was a really good day and it was building. This is a rock concert, and many people buy tickets the last week."

Olmert's spokesman Haggai Elias said the group had lied to the city over the nature of the event, and had reneged on a signed agreement that the event would not be political in nature.

"Even then, the mayor decided not to cancel it, because he knows that the moment he cancels it, tomorrow in [New York's] Central Park there will be a big event with 100,000 people saying that in Jerusalem they canceled a concert."

Benevento said nothing was misrepresented by the organizers. The slogan "Sharing Jerusalem: Two Capitals for Two States" is pretty clear what we are about," she said.



Forecast: Clear. No change in temperatures.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	PRECIP.
Amsterdam	07	45	16	91
Berlin	10	50	30	88
Buenos Aires	09	48	15	88
Chicago	11	63	23	82
Copenhagen	11	56	17	88
Frankfurt	10	50	21	70
Geneva	13	55	24	75
Helsinki	14	57	23	73
Hong Kong	23	73	24	76
Lisbon	16	61	20	67
London	13	55	20	68
Los Angeles	17	63	24	73
Madrid	18	59	31	68
Montreal	12	54	24	75
Moscow	16	51	29	64
New York	18	61	24	75

### Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the jack of spades, 7 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and 8 of clubs, and the 8 of spades, 8 of hearts, king of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

## MKs star-gaze at Knesset

By LIAT COLLINS

Even the astrologers invited to a discussion by the Knesset Science and Technology Committee entitled: "Astrology — a proven science?" did not predict the depths of emotions the topic would raise.

The discussion was chaired by Dalia Itzik (Labor) and held at the initiative of Avi Yehzekel (Labor) who recently raised the subject in a parliamentary query to the Science Ministry.

Astrologer Ilan Pecker, who arrived late, having apparently failed to foresee the traffic jams, said that top politicians, including the prime minister, ask for astrological predictions.

Yehzekel said that half the country reads newspaper horoscopes and many also "read" coffee grinds. "Some of my best friends are among them," he said.

He added that the Science Ministry had answered his question by informing him that astrology is not a science.

The discussion soon deteriorated into an argument among the astrologers themselves and between them and the MKs and scientists present.

Prof. Zvi Mazeh, the head of Tel Aviv University's Astronomy and Astrophysics Department, said astrology is not a science but that those who deal in it are not charlatans.

"But there is nothing in the theory that the stars affect individuals," he said.

Herzl Lipsitz, an astrologer, said even the Lubavitcher Rebbe had invited him to a discussion on astrology.

But Prof. Ariel Cohen, from Hebrew University's Atmospheric Science Department, said that astrologers themselves do not believe in the horoscopes they publish.

The committee decided to examine whether or not to require publications to print a cautionary note above horoscopes.

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### TURKEY

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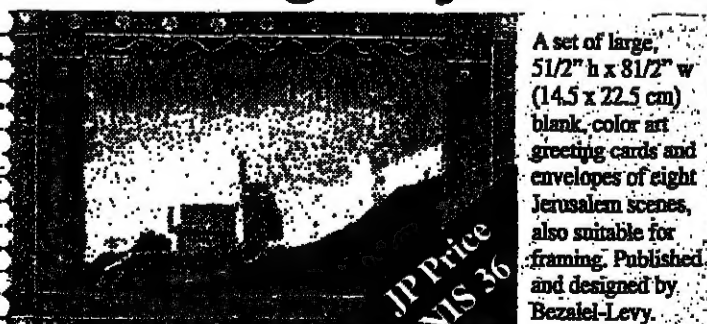
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